

U.S. Navy's Love Boat cruise ends

NORFOLK, Va. — The first U.S. Navy ship to visit Jordan since the 1967 war ended its 10-day cruise here Sunday. The ship, the USS George Easton (LST-1199), was the first of a series of visits by the Navy to Jordan as part of a new initiative to strengthen ties between the two countries. The ship's visit was part of a larger effort by the Navy to promote peace and stability in the Middle East. The ship's crew members will be visiting various locations in Jordan, including Amman, and will be participating in various activities, including a visit to the Dead Sea. The ship's visit is part of a larger effort by the Navy to promote peace and stability in the Middle East.

### Arabs in secret Israel diamond deals

TEL AVIV (AP) — Diamond dealers from several Gulf states with no official ties to Israel are visiting the country and secretly negotiating to buy precious gems, a leading businessman said Sunday. Arik Herman, manager of the National Diamond Centre (NDC), one of Israel's largest diamond exporters, told the Associated Press he is holding talks with diamond dealers from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. He said no deals have yet been concluded. Those being discussed are valued at up to \$1 million — a tiny fraction of Israel's diamond exports — but could increase, he said. "We are in negotiations," he said, "to avoid sparking opposition in their countries, Mr. Herman said. The diamonds would be delivered through countries like Britain, Switzerland and Belgium. He gave no further details. Rafi Ganzou, a foreign ministry spokesman, said such contacts would be an important development and could "contribute to the consolidation of the peace process."

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### King sends condolences to Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday sent cable of condolences to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak over the death of 44 people in a road accident. King Hussein voiced deep sorrow over the accident and expressed his condolences and those of the Jordanian people and government to President Mubarak, the Egyptian people and to the families of the victims.

### Russia 'cannot live up to treaty'

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Sunday that Russia could not live up to an agreement reducing conventional forces in Europe (CFE) and that the pact would have to be changed. In an interview with the Russian news agency Interfax, the defence minister said the reason Russia could not make all the reductions called for in the 1990 pact was the brutal war in Chechnya, where Russia has been battling separatists. "Russia cannot apply the treaty except in a context of stability," he said. "The quantity of arms and military equipment that the treaty allows Russia is insufficient. That is why the defence and foreign ministries are explaining to our partners the importance of revising it," said Mr. Grachev.

### Algerian polls 'as planned'

ALGIERS (AFP) — Presidential elections will take place before the end of the year as planned, a spokesman said at a press conference here Sunday. Elections are expected by four parties who in January signed a so-called "national contract" — a platform for talks with the government drawn up at a meeting in Rome, and rejected by Algeria's military-backed regime. The four are the National Liberation Front (FLN), the former ruling party, the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA) and the Islamic Resistance Movement (MIRI-Al Nahda). In addition, the communist Al Ithdhi movement has also stated its opposition to elections. Another party which he did not name remained "sceptical," said spokesman Mihoub Mihoubi following bilateral talks on the elections between President Liamine Zerroul and 15 parties and organisations. But Mr. Mihoubi said that five parties and four civilian organisations, including the powerful UGTA trade union had backed the idea of an election (5 killed in blast, page 12).

### Iran: American could seek pardon

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's head of judiciary has hinted that a U.S. citizen detained since 1992 and accused of having links with foreign spies could be pardoned or have his sentence reduced. Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi was answering a question at a news conference on Saturday in Tehran on the fate of Milton Meyer, a long-time resident of Iran who, Iranian officials said, was arrested because he had links with foreign intelligence agencies and had sold sensitive economic information.

### Alfi defends arrests

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al-Ali Sunday defended arrests of doctors accused of supporting violence and said the security situation in the country had improved. Statements criticising incursions on the national security or stability, in fact they are an "incitement," General Alfi told participants in a traffic conference at the Cairo police academy. Opposition newspapers have accused the Interior Ministry of holding five members of the medical union as political prisoners.

## Iraqi cabinet rejects U.N. sale proposal

Baghdad prepares people for more hardship

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Iraqi government has rejected a U.N. resolution allowing it to export limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicine, state television said. A five-hour cabinet meeting chaired by President Saddam Hussein late Saturday agreed unanimously to "reject categorically the resolution because it dangerously strikes a blow at Iraq's sovereignty."

President Saddam told his ministers that "the sovereignty of the country, for which the Iraqis have fought and shed their blood, requires that everything is done to preserve it," the official agency INA said. A session of parliament is expected to be called in coming days to announce Iraq's formal verdict on the resolution.

U.N. Resolution 986, sponsored notably by the United States and Britain, allows Baghdad to sell up to \$1 billion worth of oil per quarter for the humanitarian purposes under international supervision.

"The new resolution imposes a series of constraints on the present and the future of Iraq," the cabinet said according to the television. "It is nothing more than a manoeuvre by the United States to prevent the application of paragraph 22 of (U.N.) Resolution 687."

Paragraph 22 allows for a lifting of the oil embargo imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990 once the United Nations is persuaded that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraqi television report said the cabinet underlined that Iraq had honoured requirements for a lifting of the U.N. oil embargo.

"This resolution... distracts attention of Iraqi friends to work for (the lifting of the oil ban)," it said. The cabinet stressed Iraq would continue lobbying for a total end to sanctions and

### Sharif Zeid meets Aziz

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who arrived here Saturday on his way back home after attending the United Nations Security Council review of the U.N. sanctions on Iraq. Mr. Aziz briefed Sharif Zeid on the outcome of his visit to New York and the Iraqi position towards the latest Security Council resolution which allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of its oil to cover humanitarian needs. The meeting was attended by Iraqi ambassador to Jordan Nouir Ismael Al Wais.

said Baghdad had met all requirements to dismantle banned weapons in its arsenal.

Iraq's rejection of the offer will likely sharpen rifts in the international community on how to deal with Baghdad.

But it will, at least in the short term, boost oil markets. Analysts had expected prices to tumble by up to a dollar a barrel if Iraq agreed to the U.S. and British-proposed deal and pumped over 700,000 barrels of oil per day into world markets.

The Iraqi press on Sunday plastered its front pages with criticism of the "suspicious project" from Washington, which it accused of "torpedoing efforts" to secure a total lifting of the crippling oil embargo.

The daily Al Jumhuri said the U.N. offer "includes points which block Iraq's efforts for the lifting of the embargo."

Speaker of Parliament Saadi Mehdi Saleh told a rally in Baghdad on Saturday that the Iraqi people rejected the new resolution and would accept nothing less than a total end to sanctions.

Around 15,000 Iraqis gathered at two demonstra-

tions in the capital to protest the U.N. offer.

Under the resolution adopted Friday, money raised from oil sales would go into a U.N.-controlled escrow account and some would be set aside to fund humanitarian aid to Kurds in northern Iraq, compensation to Kuwait and missions by U.N. disarmament experts.

The cabinet decided to "recommend" the categorical rejection of this resolution, the television said without saying who the recommendation would be made to.

The Revolutionary Command Council sharply criticised the resolution on Friday but decided to give parliament and professional and labour bodies the chance to study it.

It described Resolution 986 as "worse and more dangerous" than two similar resolutions adopted in 1991 which Baghdad rejected.

The U.N. Security Council has repeatedly renewed the sanctions despite Baghdad's protests that it has complied with U.N. Gulf war resolutions and amid growing calls for an easing of the embargo which has crippled the Iraqi economy.

The United States and Britain are firmly opposed, arguing that Iraq has not yet satisfied all the U.N. demands arising out of the 1991 Gulf war when a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

The latest report by U.N. disarmament chiefs last Monday said Baghdad had failed to account for missing cultural objects which could be used to make biological weapons.

United Arab Emirates Defence Minister General Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum welcomed in remarks published on Sunday the U.N. resolution and called for an end to sanctions.

"Till when will the Iraqi people suffer from the (U.N.) economic embargo and Arab isolation?" asked

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## Rabin sees no problem with Palestinian state in Gaza

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sees no problem with the creation of a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip, but doubts Palestinians would accept it, according to an interview published Monday.

Mr. Rabin, interviewed in occupied Jerusalem last week by the magazine U.S. News and World Report, said of a Palestinian state in Gaza: "If it would be possible, I don't see any problem in it."

However, he added, "I don't believe that any Palestinian will accept it."

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in early April rejected a similar suggestion by Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Shimon Peres.

The PLO leader predicted that an independent Palestinian state limited to the Gaza Strip would wind up permanently separating it from the West Bank, whose autonomy is envisioned by the Oslo declaration of principles.

"I don't believe that the whole land of Israel should be a Jewish state," Mr. Rabin told the weekly U.S. news-magazine.

"It will not work. It will be Bosnia," he emphasised. "Therefore, I would like to see next to Israel a Palestinian entity in most or in considerable areas of the West Bank where most of the Palestinians live; in most of Gaza but not a return to the pre-1967 lines."

The prime minister reiterated his desire for "a united Jerusalem under Israeli

sovereignty."

"In the long run," he said, "I would like to see some sort of working together as a system, with Jordan and Israel as states and Palestine as an entity, less than a state."

He again linked the implementation of phase two of the declaration of principles — the extension of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank, scheduled in July — to progress made by the PLO in curbing militant violence.

In a separate interview, Mr. Rabin defended the lagging peace process, declaring that century-old conflicts cannot simply be halted "with a stopwatch."

Despite growing Israeli scepticism over Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, Mr. Rabin said "I will not measure my policy in search of peace... in accordance with the polls."

In an interview on ABC television, Mr. Rabin demanded a tougher crackdown on militants by Mr. Arafat.

"We have one alternative, to work with the partner which is ready for peace headed by Chairman Arafat," Mr. Rabin said. But "I don't believe he (Arafat) has tried seriously."

"But fighting this kind of terrorism... by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad needs determination, readiness to use his own armed law-enforcement forces and to take measures to bring people to the courts, to put people in jail, to take measures to undermine the capabilities of these terrorists," he said.

The test for Mr. Arafat, he said "is to prove he carry out

his responsibilities... to maintain law and order only in territory under his control. Unless he'll do it, there will be no possibility for Palestinians in Jericho and Gaza and to develop their economy, no one will invest there..."

Nabil Shaath, a Palestinian National Authority (PNA) minister close to Mr. Arafat, defended his government's actions in an interview on the same programme.

"We are doing very much on our side short of going to civil war," Dr. Shaath said. Dr. Shaath said the Palestinians have "gradually increased the tempo of arrests and arms confiscation and measures of reprisal" against the militants, while trying to curb what he described as "typical Third World violations of human rights."

"Now for first time, 76 per cent of the Palestinian people are with us, to disarm and prosecute terrorists," he said. "Our patience and our efforts gained what we most needed, public support" for anti-terrorism.

Dr. Shaath said he and Mr. Rabin agree that the peace process is "irreversible."

Even if Mr. Rabin's Labour government were defeated, he predicted that the next Israeli government would support continuing peace efforts.

He recalled that it was the late conservative Likud prime minister, Menachem Begin, who concluded Israel's peace agreement with Egypt.



Israeli police and soldiers carry the body of one of the three Palestinians who were shot dead in an ambush by an Israeli special unit in Hebron on Sunday (AFP photo)

## Israelis kill 3 'wanted' Palestinians in Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli security forces killed three Palestinians on Sunday in the West Bank town of Hebron, the army said.

The army said the three were militants who were reported on Israel's most-wanted list for a string of fatal attacks on Jewish settlers.

Palestinian witnesses said the Israelis were dressed as Arabs and ambushed the men as they drove their white Subaru through an olive grove. Reporters saw the bullet-riddled car and bodies lying in the field nearby.

"The Israelis were undercover and they exchanged fire for about 10 minutes," said Marwan Abu Shukur, 35, who lives next to the ambush site. "The Israelis fired until they were sure the Palestinians were dead."

The army spokesman confirmed that security forces killed three men in Hebron and 12 wounded, a military statement said.

Hebron residents said the three militants were members of a cell from the militant Hamas group that has carried out a number of fatal attacks on Jewish settlers in the Hebron area. They identified one of the dead as Taher Kafisheh, known as the cell's leader.

However, members of Kefish's family arrived at Israel's military government headquarters in Hebron to identify the body, and emerged dancing and shouting.

While Israel battled Hamas on the ground, the Palesti-

nian National Authority (PNA) fought the guerrillas in court, jailing Hamas activists for the first time.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad group have been challenging a 19-month-old, Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal with attacks on Israelis, the latest a week ago when suicide bombers killed eight Jews in the Gaza Strip.

Members of the PLO and Hamas from Gaza agreed to a truce on Friday by Mr. Arafat refused to accept it without a Hamas commitment to stop attacks on Israelis from the Palestinian self-rule areas, Gaza and Jericho.

The army reimposed a round-the-clock curfew on the Hebron area it had eased on Saturday. Israeli forces have been on high alert against guerrilla attacks since the start of the week-long Passover holiday on Friday night.

Hebron, scene of a mosque massacre last year in which a Jewish settler killed at least 30 Palestinians, has long been a flashpoint of violence. Last month, Palestinians ambushed an Israeli bus in the town, killing two Jewish settlers.

In Gaza, a Palestinian military court jailed for two years Hamas activists Mohammed Abu Shamala and Riad Al Atar. Israel Radio said they were sus-

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## General fears Turkish Vietnam in Iraq, suggests May pullout

ANKARA (Agencies) — Fearing a quagmire, the National Security Council (NSC) has recommended pulling Turkish troops out of northern Iraq by mid-May, newspapers reported Sunday.

The council, whose decisions are usually followed by the government, made the recommendation after a briefing Friday by General Ismail Hakkı Karadayi, chief of staff. Gen. Karadayi said northern Iraq was almost cleared of Kurdish rebels, the daily Hurriyet said.

Turkey sent 35,000 troops inside northern Iraq last month to wipe out Turkish Kurdish rebel bases. The rebels have been fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

President Suleyman Demirel led the NSC meeting, and was joined by Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, cabinet members and high-level civilian and military authorities.

Gen. Karadayi expressed concern that if the troops remain in northern Iraq, the operation would become "a quagmire for the Turkish troops like Vietnam became one for the U.S. troops," the

reports said. Iraqi Kurds control the area, which is out of reach of the Iraqi military, and has been patrolled by a U.S.-led allied air force since the end of the Gulf war.

The NSC decision allows Ms. Ciller, who flew to the United States on Saturday for a one-week visit, to give a withdrawal timetable to U.S. authorities, Milliyet said. The incursion has been criticised by many of Turkey's allies.

Ms. Ciller will meet with President Bill Clinton on Wednesday.

The Arab League again urged Turkey to end the military incursion and pull its troops out of Iraq.

The message was relayed by Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid to Metin Mekik, Turkey's ambassador in Cairo where the league's headquarters are located.

Mr. Mekik said his country did not intend to keep its troops in northern Iraq for long but stressed that Turkey could not set a deadline for moving out its soldiers because "the military operations were tied to circumstances outside Turkey's con-

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## Calls for freedom, justice on Easter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Thousands of pilgrims thronged Jerusalem on Easter Sunday and the Latin patriarch called for Israel to allow all Palestinians access to the city.

Pilgrims from around the world stood in rapt attention as the Roman Catholic patriarch, Michel Sabbah, said mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditional site of Jesus's tomb in Jerusalem's Old City. Some women cried.

Referring to Israel's nearly total closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since March 1993 that bars some two million Palestinians from Jerusalem and Israel, he said:

"The authorities have the responsibility to risk the new life in this land, the risk of total peace, of the return of their soldiers from the daily life of the people, the risk of the opening of Jerusalem."

Patriarch Sabbah told worshippers that all people, even members of the Hamas movement and Jewish militants, both opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, had to learn to share the Holy Land.

"We say that all of us are brothers and sisters: Palestinians, Israelis, Jews, Christians and Muslims, Hamas and Jewish extremists, all we are brothers and sisters," he said.

In an Easter message issued earlier, Patriarch Sabbah hailed Israel's plans to celebrate the 3,000th anniversary of the biblical King David's proclamation of Jerusalem as his capital, but warned against it being used to stake present-day claims on the city.

"David is king and prophet. As such he is venerated by Jews, Christians and Muslims. His memory should bring all closer to reconciliation," he wrote.

"If, on the contrary, celebrations are to reaffirm the strength of one people over the other, or to put an emphasis on the exclusive appropriation of Jerusalem by one people at the expense of another, then they will bring more disputes."

In March, Jerusalem's Jewish mayor, Ehud Olmert, revealed plans for 15-months of festivities beginning in September to celebrate David's claim to the city. Mr. Olmert, of Israel's right-wing Likud Party, has insisted the anniversary had no political aim.

Sunday was Easter for Catholics and Protestants but also Palm Sunday for orthodox churches that follow a different calendar.

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## Sfeir paints bleak Lebanon picture

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Maronite Christian patriarch, in an Easter message, painted a bleak picture of the country, citing lack of sovereignty, human rights breaches and an acute economic crisis.

Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, speaking few days after Lebanese marked the 20th anniversary of the start of the country's devastating 1975-90 civil war, warned the situation must be rectified "before it is too late."

"Our national will is captive, human rights are not always respected, the administration is weak, patronage is prevalent," Patriarch Sfeir, widely seen as the last effective Christian Voice in Lebanon, said at a weekend sermon attended by Maronite President Elias Hrawi and other officials.

"Lebanese are suffering at this stage of their national life more than in the past few years," he said in the speech from his seat of Bkirki in the Christian heartland north of Beirut.

A national reconciliation pact signed in Taif, Saudi Arabia, in 1989 ended the civil war a year later and the country has since launched a slow-paced reconstruction campaign.

Referring to grievances among Lebanon's 1.4 million once-dominant minority Christians they are being discriminated against, he said: "Rule, contrary to what is stipulated in the (Taif) national accord, is not balanced."

Many Christians who say their community emerged weakened from the 1975-90 civil war argue the Arab-brokered Taif pact which divided power equally between Christians and Muslims is being implemented in a way disavowing them.

Traditionally opposed to

Damascus' political stranglehold over Beirut, many Christians argue Lebanon will not be truly free until Syria's 35,000 troops, acting as peacekeepers, and Israel's 1,000-strong occupation force in South Lebanon leave.

The Christians, most of whom boycotted parliamentary polls in 1992 saying they wanted elections free of Damascus' tutelage, say they are not well represented in government and parliament.

Patriarch Sfeir, also a cardinal, said rivalry over public jobs on a sectarian basis has overhauled the cash-starved treasury and the economic crisis gripping the country was exhausting Lebanese.

"Debts are accumulating one month after another," he added.

Lack of trust in post-war Lebanon war preventing hundreds of thousands of Lebanese who emigrated during the war from returning "at a time when the homeland is in dire need to their energies and brains," Patriarch Sfeir said.

"All of this needs to be rectified before it is too late," he said.

"If the train of (Middle East) peace arrives and we are still in this situation and have not prepared the plans which allows us to join the march, we don't know what our fate will be."

The government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri has launched a multi-billion dollar reconstruction campaign, hoping Lebanon would regain at least part of its role as a business and financial centre in a peaceful Middle East.

But the priorities and pace of his programme have been under fire and many Lebanese are bitter at the economic hardships they still face.

## 42 accused deny charge in Egyptian court trial

CAIRO (Agencies) — Forty-two suspects entered pleas of innocent Sunday to charges that they were members of a terrorist group attempting to overthrow the government.

Six of the defendants also told the judge they were tortured in prison, and the judge ordered the court doctor to investigate.

There was no report about medical checks for five other defendants who had complained of torture at a previous hearing.

The government denies it is mistreating prisoners.

The 42 are charged with membership in the Jihad group, which assassinated President Anwar Sadat, and with attacks against the government. The group has operated in recent years under the name Vanguard of Conquest.

Conviction can result in a death penalty or long prison terms.

The defendants include three militants serving prison terms for the 1981 shooting of Sadat. The prosecutor introduced evidence from handwriting experts indicating that the three wrote letters from jail to their followers on the use of weapons and explosives.

Sunday's session was mainly procedural. The judge, who cannot be identified for security reasons, heard the defendants enter their pleas, then registered the names of their attorneys.

The next hearing was scheduled for April 29.

Families and lawyers were allowed to attend. They had been banned from the first session April 12.

Some relatives complained they had not been able to see the detainees for four months.

The indictment says the defendants formed their group in 1988. Two members were accused of killing a policeman and stealing his weapons and murdering two Coptic Christians while robbing their jewellery shop in 1994.

Another is accused of stealing ammunition from an army depot. Others are charged with illegal possession of weapons, explosives and ammunition.

Extremists have waged a three-year campaign of violence to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.



An Israeli policeman examines the bullet-ridden car in which three Palestinians were shot dead in an ambush by an Israeli special unit in Hebron on Sunday. Three militants, belonging to an underground cell of the Ezzadin Al Qassam, the military wing of Hamas, had been wanted by the Israeli army (see page one). (AFP photo)

## Families lose track of Hamas and Jihad members in crackdown

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Crowds of veiled women and elderly men flock to Gaza City's central jail each day to search for relatives rounded up in a huge Palestinian police crackdown on militants.

Saturday was visiting day but most people went simply to find out where a son, father, or cousin had been locked up after police took them from their homes in a sweep of members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Islamic Jihad.

More than 200 people have been arrested in the past week since the two groups claimed suicide bombings in the Gaza Strip which killed seven Israelis and an American.

"I heard his name called out, he is in this jail," said a mother whose son was arrested last week. She was told by a policeman to wait her turn, together with her daughter-in-law and three children.

But others around her got less information. One of them, Abu Mohammad, still had no news of his 17-year-old son, nor of his brother.

"I went to the navy center, and they sent me here, but so far I can't get any information. I need to know where they are," he said.

The crackdown is seen here as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat's most serious attempt so far at curbing

radical militants opposed to the autonomy agreement with Israel.

The suicide attacks on April 9 infuriated the Palestinian leader who has dismissed a reconciliation bid with opposition groups, insisting instead that they respect his agreements with Israel.

Those arrested can be taken to any one of the centres belonging to at least eight different Palestinian security services, including military intelligence, the special Force 17 and general intelligence.

After questioning, they are either released or transferred to Gaza City's central Saray jail. Officials have no exact figure for those released.

Last week's arrests raised to around 350 the number of people held in Palestinian jails on suspicion of anti-Israeli attacks, according to lawyer Jamal Al Sassi. They include some 100 members of Islamist and other opposition groups held in the past six months.

Police say 150 militants from the armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad are now behind bars, but Hamas dismissed the figure as inflated.

Only three, all Islamic Jihad members, have so far been charged and sentenced for up to 25 years by the new Palestinian state security court, a military court which allows no right of appeal.

Emad Abu Oudah, 24, said he was released from the

central prison after signing a declaration that he would obey the law or risk facing "maximum penalty."

During his four-day stay in jail, police asked him if he would welcome orders from his Hamas superiors to go on a suicide bombing mission.

"I told them each one of us has different family conditions, I have three children who need my care so I would not accept to become a suicide bomber," he said.

Mr. Abu Oudah, who was waiting to see his father, still in jail, said he was generally well treated during questioning. But he added: "I saw three people who had been taken from another prison to hospital, then to our cell. They had been badly beaten and were almost unconscious."

"Some interrogators are mean, they try to provoke us with insults and beat us if we respond," he said.

Sometimes the interrogation turned into an exchange of ideas.

"I told them they must release the detainees so we can all get together and agree," said Yusef Al Seifi, 75, a Hamas supporter. He was arrested with four of his sons, also Hamas members as they clashed with police during a raid on their home.

"We (Hamas) should decide to carry out no more operations in Gaza... we must protect both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority," he said.

## Iraqi Kurdish children profit from Turkish army presence

ZHAKO (AFP) — Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq has become a profitable enterprise for Iraqi Kurdish children who are making good money from selling food and cigarettes to the troops.

Every day after sunrise, Kerim Abdullah, a 13-year-old Kurdish boy, fetches newly-laid eggs from his henhouse and takes them to Turkish soldiers encamped across the road from his village.

Other boys are already waiting there in his village of Tshisaua, some with different brands of cigarettes, the others with a large selection of chewing gums or fresh yoghurt.

In return, children also get to study tanks, cannon and other sophisticated military equipment that they had only ever seen on television until March 20, when Ankara launched its military offensive against Turkish Kurdish separatist guerrillas based in the area.

More than 50 children are running small businesses catering for three Turkish camps along the road between the Iraqi border town of Zakho and Batufa, a small town about 30 kilometres further east.

"Since the Turkish army arrived, I have done good business. They like our fresh eggs," said Kerim.

It is a "two-way business," when new supplies arrive for the Turkish soldiers, they sometimes sell large quantities of cigarettes to Kurdish boys who then resell them at a large profit.

"They are really kind. Whenever they get a new load of soft drinks and Turkish biscuits, they distribute some of them free to us," said Abdustar Rahim, 15.

If they are lucky, the boys are also allowed to look over the sophisticated weaponry in the camps.

"They are better than Rambo. We are even allowed to touch the weapons sometimes," said one small boy.

The boys, however, are not afraid of the soldiers. "Why should we be? Our own people are no less dangerous than them," said Selim, 12, referring to the Iraqi Kurds who have waged war among themselves during the last year.

Selim found it hard to believe there were children only a few dozen kilometres away who had been forced to flee their homes with their parents because of Turkish shelling.

"These can't be the same Turkish soldiers, because these here are definitely nice people," he said.

Colonel Douglas Starr, Lieutenant-Colonel John Daly and Captain Bo Friesen ultimately were reprimanded by the army for negligence for allowing their troops to cross battle boundary lines.

But the reprimands of Col. Starr and Lt. Col. Daly, which could damage the promotion chances of career officers, were not placed in their permanent records, on the orders of an army general, the GAO said.

Col. Starr has since retired from the army. Lt. Col. Daly, the son-in-law of General Creighton Abrams, a hero at the battle of the Bulge and a former army chief of staff, currently is assigned to the Pentagon. He declined to comment to the magazine.

Capt. Friesen, who has left the army, told the magazine: "Friendly fire happens in a war. But this one could have been very easily prevented."

Three soldiers under the command of Col. Starr, Lt. Col. Daly and Capt. Friesen received the bronze stars that are now in dispute.

According to the GAO, the soldiers were honoured "for bravery and valor," "for clearing the sector of enemy" and "exceptionally meritorious heroism in the face of hostile fire."

The citations were based on false statements by Col. Starr, Lt. Col. Daly and others in the unit, the GAO said. In the case of two awards, the incident was placed at an Iraqi airfield 27 kilometres northeast of where Fielder was killed, which "seriously masked the actual events of the fratricide," the GAO said.

Earlier inquiries which cleared the officers were "incomplete, inaccurate and not supported by available evidence," the GAO found.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three U.S. soldiers in a unit that accidentally killed an army sergeant with "friendly fire" during the Gulf war nonetheless received bronze stars for their actions, according to a report.

The soldiers were awarded the medals based on "misleading statements and misrepresentations" by three of their commanding officers, according to a confidential General Accounting Office (GAO) report on the army's inquiry into the incident, obtained by U.S. News and World Report.

The GAO informed the army of its findings in May 1994. And last August, the army inspector general urged the army to revoke the awards. The army says it has begun that process, the magazine said.

Sergeant Douglas "Lance" Fielder, 22, was killed and another soldier was wounded Feb. 27, 1991, when troops of the Third Armoured Cavalry regiment strayed outside their assigned battle area and, mistaking Fielder and four others for Iraqi troops, fired on their disabled ammunition carrier.

"The (GAO) report says the officers cited their men for heroic efforts 'involving conflict with an armed enemy' when, in fact, there was no enemy," the magazine reported in its April 24 edition.

Fielder's mother, Deborah Shelton Harris, said she still was not satisfied the army has told the truth about her son's death. He also received the bronze star, awarded after his death.

"It tarnishes Lance's bronze star," his mother said. "It is just like spitting on the grave. I am stunned."

The GAO, a congressional watchdog agency, reviewed the army's investigation at the request of Senator Jim Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat, to determine whether the army's probe was thorough. The GAO stopped short of accusing the army of

## Denktash faces run-off in presidential election

NICOSIA (AFP) — Veteran Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash faces a run-off against a former ally in a presidential vote in breakaway northern Cyprus after failing to clinch a first round Saturday, official results showed.

It will be the first time Mr. Denktash, running for his third term as president, has been forced into a second round of balloting in 30 years of power.

Mr. Denktash, 71, won 40 per cent of the first round vote, according to results based on 82 per cent of the poll.

He now faces a head-on meeting next Saturday with Dervis Eroglu, leader of the National Unity Party which Mr. Denktash helped set up before the two men fell out over intercommunal talks on Cyprus.

"I regret the party political divisions marking this presidential election, while by definition the president is above parties," Mr. Denktash said late Saturday.

Mr. Eroglu, prime minister from 1985 to 1993, won 24 per cent of the first round vote behind Mr. Denktash who needed an absolute majority to avoid a run-off.

Mr. Denktash is running as an independent but is supported by the centre-right Democrat Party, one of the two ruling coalition parties.

The most likely scenario in the second round would be an alliance between Mr. Denktash and the other member of the coalition, the Republican Turkish Party, whose leader Ozker Ozgur polled third with 19 per cent of the vote.

Cyprus has been divided into Turkish and Greek sectors since 1974 when Turkish mainland troops invaded the northern third of the island after a coup in Nicosia backed by Greece.

The Turkish republic of northern Cyprus set up in 1983 is recognised only by Ankara, but Mr. Denktash has been acknowledged as leader of his community since intercommunal strife first erupted in post-independence Cyprus in 1963.

Saturday's poll was seen as the first real test for Mr. Denktash in three decades of power. He won 70.2 per cent of the vote in 1985 and 66.7 per cent in 1990.

Mr. Denktash had said he would not run for another five-year term but changed his mind because of what he called a deluge of appeals from his community.

A hardliner in stalled talks on setting up a U.N.-brokered federation, he campaigned on a pledge to make major progress in 1996 towards unifying the island.

## Somali warlord sees disintegration threat

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somalia's self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad warned Saturday that Somalia could disintegrate if a government of national unity was not established within 90 days.

The new phenomenon of autonomous authorities in some regions of the country depresses me," said Mr. Ali Mahdi, whose sentiments were prompted at least in part by the decision two weeks ago of the Digil and Mirifle communities in southern Somalia to establish an autonomous region.

Mr. Ali Mahdi's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) controls northern areas of the capital, Mogadishu. The SSA includes the United Somali Congress-Somali Patriotic Movement (USC/USPM) factions.

The southern half of the city and most of its environs

are controlled by rival warlord General Mohammed Farah Aideded's Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction.

"If the Somalis fail to establish a government, the country will end up in clan-ridden emirates which is much more disastrous than the mess we were found in 1991-92," said Mr. Ali Mahdi.

Warfare between Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aideded's backers after the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991 caused a massive famine and led to intervention by U.S. troops in December 1992. These troops were placed by U.N. peacekeepers, the last of whom pulled out this year.

Mr. Ali Mahdi told the press conference that his faction welcomed proposals by the U.N. Security Council to establish a small liaison office in Somalia to coordinate

humanitarian assistance and to facilitate negotiations between local warring clan leaders.

"We condemn those opposing international efforts at a time when the death toll in Somalia from clan warfare exceeds between 1,000 and 1,500 a day," Mr. Ali Mahdi said in reference to his arch-rival Aideded, who has vowed that he would never again accept any U.N. presence in Somalia.

At a press conference in the Somali capital on Wednesday, Gen. Aideded accused the United Nations in general and U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali in particular of having "created most of the rival factions in Somalia and supplied them with arms and money to finance their war activities."

"No Somali with a sense of nationalism wants the revival of the U.N. activities in this

country, no one can accept U.N. offices in Somalia now. It is even inappropriate to talk about a U.N. return into Somali politics for the time being," Gen. Aideded stressed.

But on Saturday Mr. Ali Mahdi reiterated the need for the U.N. presence in Somalia to ease threats of another civil war and appealed to the world community to spare no efforts in helping the Somali people.

Asked to comment on the current fighting in Hiran region north of Mogadishu between the Hadr Gedir militia supporting Gen. Aideded and Mr. Ali Mahdi's own Hawdawi supporters, Mr. Ali Mahdi appealed to both sides to stop fighting immediately.

"Their problem is negotiable if they are fighting for control of the road that links Mogadishu to the central regions," said Mr. Ali Mahdi.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	Mudline
14:30	Mudline's Day
15:00	Hard Time on Planet Earth
15:30	Pab
16:30	Tarazin
17:00	Le Raton Laveur
17:30	Film: "Les Archange"
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
20:00	Yoyager
20:30	Le Raton Laveur
21:10	South Beach
22:00	News in English
22:30	Strass Dynasty
23:20	Features Film: "Nowhere To Hide"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:41	Fajr
06:02	(Sunrise) Duha
12:35	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:49	Maghrib
20:30	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidhi, Tel. 810741	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 644195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 654591	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Khamasni weather conditions will prevail, so it will be hot and dusty with clouds appearing at different altitudes. Winds will be westerly moderate gradually becoming southerly active. In Amman, hot and dusty weather conditions are expected with winds southerly active and seas rough.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	12/28
Aqaba	17/35
Obacht	12/30
Jordan Valley	15/33
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 15 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Jamil Tarif	794710
Dr. A.Hus Al Hakim	185348
Dr. Ramzi Mawad	894778
Dr. Khalil Al Jibali	740741
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fordos pharmacy	778336
Al Asami pharmacy	637055
Najm pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636781
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637661
Najm pharmacy	623672
Najm pharmacy	847632
IRAD:	
Dr. Ali Al Omani	272332
Alquds pharmacy	1-7
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ahmad Al Tarif	91806
Khalil pharmacy	965417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Reps:	
Civil Defence Emergency	630241
Rescue Police 192	621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896300
Public Security Department	83021
Hotel Complaints	618800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	810233
Central Amman Telephone	
Reps:	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660110
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	18-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussien Medical Centre	813813/332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	
Jabal Amman Maternity	642441/2
Mahmud J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664114
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/3
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir	771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775110/20
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	662340/50
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Gov. Hospital	09-990323
Zarqa National Hospital	
Irbid:	
Irbid Sina Hospital	09-990361
Al-Hums Modern Hospital	09-998673
Irbid	
Princess Basma Hospital	02-275555
Green Catholic Hospital	02-272755
Irbid Nafes Hospital	02-247100

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:00	Khartoum (SD)
08:35	Cairo (MS)
13:40	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:30	Kiev (IU)
15:45	Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:45	Dubai (EK)
01:25	Amsterdam (KL)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
(Terminal 1)	
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
08:00	Aqaba (RJ)
11:15	Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
11:45	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:30	Milan (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:20	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)
14:15	Aqaba, Graz (RJ)
20:45	Bahrain, Dhaka (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:40	Damascus (RJ)
23:00	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
23:45	Madrid (add) (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:00	Istanbul (TK)
07:30	Rome (AZ)
09:30	Beirut (ME)
11:30	Cairo (MS)
14:20	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30	Kiev (IU)
21:35	Dubai (EK)
02:30	Amsterdam (KL)
HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
Dep. Amman RJM every Monday	
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday	
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday	
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	650/450
Banana	600
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	130/70
Carrot	170/100
Cauliflower	180/120
Cucumbers (large)	80/50
Cucumbers (small)	160/90
Eggplant	250/150
Garlic	370/270
Grape Leaves	1000/750
Green beans	240/140
Lemon	600/500
Marrow (large)	180/140
Murrow (small)	170/140
Mulakhia	320/250
Onion (dry)	160/100
Orange	600/400
Potatoes	550/360
Pepper (hot)	500/300
Pepper (sweet)	400/250
Potato	260/180
String Beans	300/170
Tomato	270/100







## No 'disaster' but security remains tight in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo lived through a doomsday cult leader's prophecy of a disaster but remained tense and under heavy security Sunday, with scores of restaurants and stores shut and thousands of police guarding potential trouble spots.

"We have no plans to loosen security," a spokesman for the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department said. "The number of officers being deployed will be roughly the same as yesterday."

On Saturday, helicopters patrolled the skies over Tokyo and 20,000 police were mobilised on the ground to watch over public transport, department stores, stadiums, airports and theatres in this city of 12 million people.

"We can't completely ignore the rumors," the police spokesman said. "Extra precaution is needed to ensure public safety."

Shoko Asahara, the leader of Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect), prophesied that Saturday would bring a disaster to Tokyo worse than the earthquake in Kobe in January.

Asahara, who predicts the world will end in 1997, forecast a catastrophe, possibly an earthquake, would "make the Kobe earthquake seem as minor as a fly landing on one's cheek."

More than 5,500 people died in the Kobe quake, which the sect claims its guru had predicted.

Aum is under investigation over suspected links to the March 20 nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways which killed 12 people and injured more than 5,000.

As was the case Saturday, guards stood on duty at major subway stations while loudspeakers warned passengers not to touch any suspicious packages left on trains or at stations. Spot checks continued along main highways.

"I stayed up late last night watching television for possible news of incidents," said office worker Atsuko Hirano.

"Much to our relief, nothing really happened in the end. Now I think I can go out and meet my friends and go shopping."

Despite signs that life in Tokyo was returning to normal, two major shopping centres and scores of stores and restaurants kept their doors closed Sunday.

About 550 followers of the sect fled Tokyo Saturday, judging the capital was "dangerous," a police official said.

The sect, accusing some Japanese media of reporting it could spread nerve gas in Tokyo, said it would not do anything to "threaten peace and order."

In more than three weeks of massive raids on the sect's sprawling complex at the foot of Mt. Fuji, 100 kilometres west of Tokyo, police have confiscated hundreds of tonnes of chemicals, including all the ingredients of the nerve gas sarin.

Police said they had arrested more than 100 sect members on various charges,

including abduction, illegal confinement and traffic offences.

But they have not openly linked the group to the March 20 sarin attack in Tokyo. The sect has denied any connection with the subway attack or the March 30 shooting of the national police chief.

The death toll from last month's gas attack in Tokyo's subway system rose to 12 with the death of a 21-year-old company employee in hospital Sunday, police said.

Megumi Ito, a resident of Saitama Prefecture, near here, was hospitalised after inhaling gas on March 20.

Asahara may be suffering from a terminal illness, Japanese dailies said Saturday, quoting the sect's top spokesman.

"The master's condition is quite serious. He has a malfunction of the heart and hepatocirrhosis. They could be fatal illnesses," Fumihito Jyu, the spokesman, was quoted as telling reporters Friday.

## Russia seeks Tajikistan breakthrough

MOSCOW (AFP) — A Russian delegation pursued peace efforts in Tajikistan Sunday following a week of violent clashes on the Tajik-Afghan border between Russian-led troops and Islamic rebels as fighting died down late Saturday, media reports said.

Russian media said front lines inside the autonomous region of Gorno-Badkhashan in eastern Pamir district were quiet following weeklong

fighting claimed 200 Tajik rebel lives and a further 41 among troops from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Meanwhile the Russian delegation from the Federation Council, or upper chamber, continued with its peace mission having arrived late Friday in the Tajik capital Dushanbe from where its members were to go on to Khorog, Pamir district's main town, ITAR-TASS said.

Following talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, CIS border troop commander Andrei Nikolayev had appealed to the rebels Friday to engage in an "immediate" ceasefire.

Mr. Yeltsin himself proposed a meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for Thursday in Moscow, Interfax reported, to take "collective measures" within the CIS aimed at resolving the crisis.

Dozens of civilians have begun carrying cans of diesel and petrol to northern areas held by Tamil guerrillas following the lifting of a ban on fuel to rebel-held regions, Tamil sources said Sunday.

Tamil civilians crossing the last security force checkpoint in northern Vavuniya have been taking unlimited supplies of fuel to the areas controlled by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since Saturday, the sources said.

The checkpoint at Vavuniya marks an unofficial border between government-held territory and LTTE-held areas in the north.

The free transportation of fuel to the LTTE-held north was a key concession granted to the rebels by the government Thursday to help end a stalemate in peace talks, officials said.

This was the first time in five years that fuel was being freely taken to the north, large parts of which are under LTTE control, and the theatre of some of the worst fighting in recent years between security forces and the Tigers.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga announced the lifting of the ban on fuel together with the removal of further restrictions on fishing off the northern coast, which were two key demands of the LTTE for continuing negotiations.

However, the government has said it would continue to enforce a ban on eight more items to rebel-held territory and also restrict fishing around military facilities located on the northern coast.

Arms and ammunition, pyrotechnic equipment, remote control devices, binoculars, telescopes, compasses, material resembling army uniforms and pen torch batteries will remain banned from the north, officials said.

No one was available Friday to comment for Mr. McNamara or his publisher, the Times Books Division of Random House, on disposition of the profits. Mr. McNamara was out of the country.

Mr. Brazee said Mr. McNamara's book "shows once again the public needs to differentiate between the war and warrior. We served our country. We're proud of that service. And we certainly are aware our government hasn't been forthcoming with us," he added.

"The question still begs to be answered why did we continue to sacrifice American lives after he knew the war was unwinnable?"

Interviewed Thursday night on ABC-TV's Nightline programme, Mr. McNamara said fear that a misstep could bring on World War III had caused him to be silent even when he concluded that the war was unwinnable.

Mr. McNamara said he did counsel U.S. officials privately to seek a negotiated settlement. But he said he shared the sense of Kennedy, Johnson, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and other senior officials that the appearance of appeasement could have emboldened the Soviet Union and Communist China to move aggressively against the West, leading to the possibility of a nuclear war.

Mr. McNamara offered no direct reply to critics who said he had a moral obligation to state his misgivings after he left office in 1968.

"This book is not a book of redemption," he said.

## Sri Lanka allows fuel to rebel territory

COLOMBO (AFP) — Dozens of civilians have begun carrying cans of diesel and petrol to northern areas held by Tamil guerrillas following the lifting of a ban on fuel to rebel-held regions, Tamil sources said Sunday.

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South African President Nelson Mandela (centre) poses with Limpopo Hani (left), the widow of Communist Party chief Chris Hani, and his daughter Nomakwezi during the unveiling of a tombstone at Elsburg Park cemetery to commemorate the death of Hani, who was assassinated on April 10, 1993 outside his home in Boksburg (AFP photo)

## Winnie Mandela cold-shouldered by ANC colleagues and supporters

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Winnie Mandela, South Africa's twice-sacked deputy arts and culture minister, is being cold-shouldered by her African National Congress (ANC) supporters and colleagues, the Sunday press here said.

The snubbing follows claims by officials of the ruling ANC that President Nelson Mandela is very angry at his estranged wife and her supporters in the ANC executive are not prepared to sacrifice their jobs by supporting her.

Frontpage headlines in the country's main national newspapers ranged from "Out in the cold" — Sunday Times; "Winnie sidelined" — City Press; and "Winnie treated as a nobody" — Rapport.

The three newspapers carried extensive reports of how Mrs. Mandela was snubbed Saturday at the Boksburg cemetery where her husband unveiled the tombstone of slain Communist leader Chris Hani.

The reports said Mrs. Mandela arrived more than 30

minutes late for the ceremony to find no seat had been set aside for her on the podium.

She waited at her car, they said, while embarrassed aides sought an extra chair, which they managed to squeeze in at the back — outside the tent erected to provide cover for dignitaries.

Her arrival went largely unacknowledged by the crowd, including two groups of her traditional supporters — homeless blacks from squatter camps, the reports said.

No sooner had Mrs. Mandela sat down than ANC leaders began to lash out at her in their speeches, though none mentioned her by name.

She was criticised for being a "populist" and for publicly attacking Mr. Mandela's government of national unity for failing to deliver change to South Africa's overwhelming black majority.

One of the reasons Mrs. Mandela was sacked on March 27, ANC insiders said, was her repeated criticism of the government. The official

reason advanced by senior ANC leaders was that she went to West Africa on a trip specifically prohibited by her husband.

Refusing to take the firing lying down, Mrs. Mandela Tuesday sued for reinstatement, claiming the dismissal was unconstitutional.

To prevent a potentially damaging court battle, the president reinstated her Wednesday but sacked her again Friday.

Sunday's reports said Mrs. Mandela, who is head of the ANC's Women's League was also cold-shouldered during Saturday's wreath-laying ceremony, remaining seated while two colleagues, who quit the League over differences with Mrs. Mandela, were asked to lay wreaths.

In a statement Friday, the ANC gave its "unequivocal support" to the president and said Mrs. Mandela's firing was a reminder to all elected ANC representatives "that no individual, regardless of prestige, popularity or track record should stand above the basic norms of discipline."

## British Labour Party leader accused of not declaring luxury trips

LONDON (AFP) — British Conservative MPs called Sunday for a parliamentary inquiry into claims opposition Labour leader Tony Blair and his number two John Prescott failed to declare free luxury trips.

The Sunday Times said they enjoyed stays at a luxury Scottish hotel in 1989 paid for by the oil company Conoco, while Mr. Blair was also given a free flight to the United States on Concorde in 1985.

Neither declared their free trips in a parliamentary register which details members' earnings and interests, violating parliamentary rules on conduct, the paper added.

In October, Conservative junior minister Neil Hamilton was forced to resign after "forgetting" to reveal an expenses-paid stay at the luxury Ritz Hotel in Paris offered him by its owner Mohammad Al-Fayed, who also owns the prestigious Harrod's store in London.

David Shaw, Conservative MP for Dover, southern England, has written to the Parliamentary Committee on Members' Interests demanding an inquiry into Mr. Blair and Mr. Prescott.

"If all the facts are precisely as I have managed to ascertain, it would clearly require that the members in question should receive a very serious punishment," he said.

In the current circumstances nothing less than suspension from the House of Commons would seem appropriate," he added.

A Labour spokesman denounced the claims as a "dirty tricks" campaign, saying "there is absolutely no impropriety involved in this."

"There is a fundamental distinction between working visits and speaking engagements undertaken in an official capacity as an opposition spokesman, as Mr. Blair and Mr. Prescott were on these occasions, and an undisclosed free trip or sight-seeing tour."

He said Mr. Blair went to the U.S. as part of a cross-party campaign to promote British exports, while the hotel visits were to attend seminars as opposition spokesmen. MPs from other parties had attended similar Conoco seminars in the past, he added.

On Saturday, the Labour Party clashed with trade union allies for a second time in

a week, marring party hopes of smooth progress towards victory at the next national election.

Labour's education spokesman David Blunkett was forced to take refuge from angry protesters at the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers (NUT), which then voted against his no-strikes policy.

About 30 NUT members surrounded Mr. Blunkett, who is blind, as he arrived at the conference in Blackpool, north-west England. He was ushered into a side room for about 20 minutes.

Mr. Blunkett had come to the conference to plead against strikes against the Conservative government's education policy and funding for schools which has led many local authorities to say they may have to reduce teaching staffs.

He later told a fringe meeting: "Action must not damage the future of the children we seek to protect."

But the conference voted in favour of a one-day strike by all public sector unions against government pay awards as a prelude to possible further strikes.

## EU ends fish dispute with Canada

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union and Canada ended a bitter row over fishing rights in the North Atlantic Sunday with a deal both sides hailed as bringing peace to the fishing grounds and protecting threatened fish stocks.

"The rule of law has been restored on the high seas," EU Fisheries Commissioner Emma Bonino told journalists after the deal was announced.

Ms. Bonino said the agreement, hammered out during intensive Easter weekend negotiations, was good for all — Canada and the Union, fishing and fishermen.

"I hope it is the beginning of a new era of commitment to fishing policy," a smiling Bonino added. She said the accord restored "historic, legitimate fishing rights" and set up a programme both on-board and satellite monitoring of catches.

Ms. Bonino, seated along

side Canada's Ambassador Jacques Roy, said Ottawa had agreed to repay a bail bond to the owners of the Spanish trawler Estal, the seizure of which on March 9 sparked the dispute, and repeal laws restricting fishing in the area.

The deal gives the EU, all of whose quota is accounted for by Spain and Portugal, 5,013 more tonnes of Greenland halibut (turbot) in the waters off Newfoundland for the rest of 1995.

Previously, Canada said Spain had already fished its entire 10,000-tonne share of a North West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) quota of 27,000 tonnes.

Madrid's Ambassador to Brussels Javier Elorza, whose country originally demanded half the NAFO quota — 13,500 tonnes — for the EU, said the deal was the best Spain could get.

"We want to turn the page and cooperate with Canada

and have a good conservation of the stock," he told Reuters Television.

Portugal was also unhappy about the accord which will be formally endorsed by EU capitals in an exchange of messages.

Portugal would have preferred another agreement but it said that in a spirit of solidarity it would not block the deal," French Ambassador Pierre De Boissien, speaking on behalf of the EU's French presidency, told a news conference.

Canada and the EU also laid out an outline deal for catches in 1996 under which Canada gains the exclusive right to 7,000 tonnes of Greenland halibut within its own 200-mile limit and the EU just over 55 per cent of the rest.

The complex formula in effect gives the two 41 per cent each of the total catch, allowing both to say they have parity.

## McNamara's belated admissions stir anger in Vietnam veterans

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Defence Secretary Robert McNamara's belated admission that U.S. persistence in Vietnam was "terribly wrong" has opened old wounds among the American veterans who battled in the jungles, rice paddies and tall grass.

"A lot of people were wrong about Vietnam. But he knew the truth and concealed it," said retired Col. Harry Summers, editor of Vietnam magazine and a former battalion operations officer.

"He betrayed the men and women serving under him," Col. Summers said. "He betrayed the American people." Mr. McNamara, who served under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, was the architect of America's buildup in Vietnam from a small force to a peak of half of a million. To many, the 11-year conflict was "McNamara's war."

But in his new book *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons Of Vietnam*, and in a tearful prime time TV appearance last week, Mr. McNamara said the policy he helped formulate was "terribly wrong."

Mr. McNamara said he concluded the war was unwinnable in the mid-60s, yet he did not speak out and continued to dispatch troops into combat, in part because he feared that the appearance of weakness by the United States could have emboldened the Soviet Union.

The vast majority of the 58,196 Americans killed died after 1965.

For many who lost friends,

lost limbs, lost their eyesight or lost their innocence, Mr. McNamara's mea culpa rings hollow and late.

"You're damn right I'm angry," said John Sales, 54, a former Marine who was blinded in 1967 and founded the Blinded American Veterans Foundation.

"It's a slap in the face to everyone who has worn the uniform. It was McNamara and his ilk that had us fight the war the wrong way. He's a disgrace," Mr. Sales said.

"Most of us are glad he wrote the book. (But) what it shows is a failure of courage on his part," said Jan Scruggs, a former infantryman and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

"A lot of my friends were killed there. A lot of them were wounded, and many of them are still in wheelchairs. If it was really unnecessary, and if we could and should have gotten out of there," Mr. Scruggs said, pausing to let the right words, "it's just kind of tough finding out about it now."

It rankles some that Mr. McNamara stands to profit from royalties on the book, which is out just weeks from the 20th anniversary of the fall of Saigon to the Communists. Some feel the money should be used for scholarships for children of dead GIs, or to fund programmes to help veterans deal with the war's physical and emotional scars.

"He certainly had a great deal to do with creating many of those problems," said James Brazee, president of the Vietnam Veterans of

America.

No one was available Friday to comment for Mr. McNamara or his publisher, the Times Books Division of Random House, on disposition of the profits. Mr. McNamara was out of the country.

Mr. Brazee said Mr. McNamara's book "shows once again the public needs to differentiate between the war and warrior. We served our country. We're proud of that service. And we certainly are aware our government hasn't been forthcoming with us," he added.

"The question still begs to be answered why did we continue to sacrifice American lives after he knew the war was unwinnable?"

Interviewed Thursday night on ABC-TV's Nightline programme, Mr. McNamara said fear that a misstep could bring on World War III had caused him to be silent even when he concluded that the war was unwinnable.

Mr. McNamara said he did counsel U.S. officials privately to seek a negotiated settlement. But he said he shared the sense of Kennedy, Johnson, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and other senior officials that the appearance of appeasement could have emboldened the Soviet Union and Communist China to move aggressively against the West, leading to the possibility of a nuclear war.

Mr. McNamara offered no direct reply to critics who said he had a moral obligation to state his misgivings after he left office in 1968.

"This book is not a book of redemption," he said.

## Yachting champ Alan Bond marries

SYDNEY (AFP) — Failed entrepreneur Alan Bond, a fallen Australian hero who won yachting's coveted America's Cup in 1983, married for the second time here. Mr. Bond, 56, married long-time acquaintance and former public relations consultant Diana Bliss, 41, at a secret service in the 400 Australian dollar (\$300) a night Park Hyatt Hotel in Sydney. Around 160 friends later celebrated at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art, a venue reportedly kept secret even from the guests until a few hours before the wedding. Mr. Bond was declared bankrupt in April 1992 after his diversified property and brewing empire, Bond Corp., crashed into receivership under a mountain of debt. He and former wife of 37 years, Eileen, divorced after he was jailed for dishonesty in 1992. The conviction was later overturned at a retrial and Bond's bankruptcy was recently extinguished.

## Curtains fall for Raquel's London play

LONDON (AFP) — A London theatre pulled down the curtain on actress Raquel Welch after she failed to pull in the crowds and woo the critics, accordingly to British press reports. Welch, 54, had the lead role in George Bernard Shaw's *The Millionaire*, due to open at the Albery Theatre in London's West End on May 11, after a tour of provincial theatres. However, poor reviews for her performance as Epifania Fitzsassen have hit advance ticket sales, and forced the Albery to abandon its staging of the play. While the papers complimented the 54-year-old actress on her legendary beauty, the problems with her performance started, according to the *Evening Standard*, "when Raquel opens her mouth." The *Birmingham Post* said the former screen bombshell was "static and rigid in the first act." Welch's response was fittingly theatrical: "I can almost hear the knives being sharpened for me when we get to London," several newspapers quoted her as saying.

## Thai traffic cops to become monks

BANGKOK (R) — Ninety-nine policemen who spend their days trying to tame Bangkok's chaotic traffic will be ordained as Buddhist monks next month as a tribute to the king, state-run Radio Thailand said Saturday. The radio said the policemen, part of the royal project to ease traffic snarls in the congested capital, will be ordained as a tribute to King Bhumibol Adulyadej ahead of the 50th anniversary of his ascension to the throne in 1996. The mass ordination is scheduled for May 1-3 in Bangkok. "Following the ordination the new monks will spend 15 days learning Buddhist teachings in theory and in practice... before returning to their duties as laymen," the radio said. In predominantly-Buddhist Thailand, it is common practice for most men to become monks.

## Royal fireman arrested over Windsor fire

LONDON (R) — A fireman at Windsor Castle, Queen Elizabeth's favourite residence, has been arrested by police investigating a series of fires at the 900-year-old palace. British newspapers reported. They said the fireman, who lives with his wife and children in a cottage in the castle grounds, was released on bail without charge after four hours of questioning. He will report back to police next month. Windsor Castle, ravaged by fire in 1992, has been hit by a series of mystery blazes in recent weeks, the newspapers said. "We are investigating a small fire that occurred at the castle in the early hours of April 3," said a police spokesman. "In connection with that inquiry we arrested a 34-year-old man." He declined to confirm or deny the man was a member of the castle's fire brigade. The 1992 blaze, whose cause is still unclear, swept unchecked through a whole wing of Windsor Castle including the magnificent 14th century St. George's Hall. Nine hundred years of craftsmanship and walls of tapestries were burned. Miraculously, most paintings were saved. Many of the 100 ruined rooms are to be restored exactly.



**Yachting champ Alan Bond marries**

**Sydney (AFP)** — Australian yachting champion Alan Bond, 41, married his girlfriend, Dora Blass, 41, in a ceremony at the Sydney Opera House on Sunday. Bond, who won the America's Cup in 1983, is a multimillionaire and a former member of the Australian parliament. The couple have two children. Bond's wife is a former model and a friend of his. The ceremony was attended by several hundred guests, including Bond's friends and family. Bond gave a speech in which he thanked his supporters and friends. He also mentioned his political career and his love for yachting. The ceremony was a private affair, with only a few members of the press allowed to attend. Bond and Blass were married in 1988, but their marriage was annulled in 1991. They have since reconciled and have two children together.



French U.N. soldiers rush to evacuate a comrade after he was shot in his chest from a Bosnian Serb sniper position in the centre of Sarajevo. The French U.N. soldier, who was trying to build sniper barricades, died minutes later (AFP photo)

## Bosnian government forces advance south of Sarajevo

**SARAJEVO (Agencies)** — Government soldiers broke through Serb lines south of Sarajevo Sunday, capturing a mountain peak and several villages, Bosnian Serb leaders said.

The latest advance by the Muslim-led government's troops came as a failed four-month ceasefire agreement entered its final two weeks, and combatants were gearing for more heavy fighting in the 3-year-old conflict.

Tension has escalated throughout Bosnia and particularly in Sarajevo, where snipers killed two French peacekeepers Friday and Saturday.

Bosnian Serb military sources in the northwest town of Sanski Most, where Bosnian Serb leaders gathered, said a government offensive early Sunday had broken through Serb defenses on Mount Treskavica, about 30 kilometres south of Sarajevo.

They captured the mountain peak of Djokino Brdo and nearby villages, and killed 14 Serb soldiers, the military sources said.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic charged in an interview in Sanski Most that the offensive showed the Bosnian government was interested in fighting rather than negotiations.

"The international community should withdraw immediately any support for the Muslim side because supporting the Muslims means prolonging the war," he said.

The government has been on the offensive on several important mountain areas for nearly a month. It managed to capture a strategic communications tower on Mount Vlasica, about 70 kilometres northwest of Sarajevo last month.

Serbs, who have taken control of 70 per cent of Bosnia in their fight to separate from the Muslim-oriented government are being pushed back in places.

Marking the third anniversary of the Bosnian army, the commander, Gen. Rasim Delic said Saturday that only inflicting heavy casualties on the Serbs will make them accept a negotiated end to the war.

The two sides agreed at the end of 1994 to a four-month ceasefire, during which negotiators would try to find a settlement. But talks have gotten nowhere.

The government accepted an international peace plan that would give it and its Croat allies 51 per cent of Bosnia, and the Serbs 49 per cent. Mr. Karadzic has only said that he could use the plan as the basis of future negotiations.

France, the largest contributor of troops to the U.N. mission in Bosnia, was outraged at the killing of two of its soldiers. Its defence minister, Francois Leotard, said his country would consider withdrawing its troops.

"We are going to discuss this issue with our European partners," he said.

Officials said it's still unclear who fired the shots that killed the peacekeepers.

Since early 1992, 159 peacekeepers have been killed throughout the former Yugoslavia, including 33 Frenchmen. Eric Hardoin was the 58th to be killed in a combat-related incident.

The return of the anti-sniper barricades, which Hardoin was helping erect, underscored the increasingly precarious security situation in Sarajevo.

Another U.N. spokesman, Maj. Pierre Chavancy, said explosions and exchanges of fire were reported along Sarajevo's front lines Saturday and early Sunday. Almost 1,000 firing incidents were reported in the previous 24 hours, he said Sunday morning.

U.N. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said they would try to reopen the airport Sunday to bring in badly needed fuel supplies. The airport was closed on April 8 after a U.S. cargo plane was hit by 10 small-arms rounds.

Bosnian Serb political and military chiefs are blaming each other for recent combat successes by their Muslim-led forces, widening a split between the two camps, Serb sources said Sunday.

The disputes have surfaced at a meeting of the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament in the northwestern town of Sanski Most where deputies Sunday began a second day of heated closed-door discussions on their military future.

Hardline Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) chief General Ratko Mladic gave a bleak assessment of his soldiers' capacity to contain the resurgent Bosnian government army, which has won strategic ground with lightning attacks in recent weeks.

Gen. Mladic's leadership suffered unprecedented criticism from deputies angry at the loss of ground in northern Bosnia, a vital communications tower on Mt. Vlasica in central Bosnia, and the failure to crush the northwest Muslim enclave of Bihac.

Gen. Mladic responded that a lack of political commitment to all-out war against the Bosnian government was to blame for the setbacks, sources close to the meeting said.

The Serb general was expected to point to the diversion of dwindling fuel supplies and other resources for the private benefit of politicians when he made his defence at a further debate Sunday, they said.

The ethnic mini-state the Serbs have carved out of Bosnia by war has been badly hit by a nine-month trade blockade slapped on it by former patron Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic for refusing to sign a peace deal.

Western diplomats and U.N. officials say relations between the Bosnian Serb Army and political leaders have worsened and they report growing division within the political leadership itself.

Serb military self-confidence has been dented by Bosnian government army victories and their high cost in lost Serb lives.

**Curtains fall for Raquel's London play**

**LONDON (AFP)** — A London production of the play "The End of the Affair" by Graham Greene, starring Raquel Welch, has closed after a short run. The play, which was a major production, had been running for several weeks. Welch, who is 50 years old, played the role of a woman who falls in love with a man who is a member of the Gestapo. The play was well-received by critics and audiences alike. It was a disappointment for Welch, who had hoped for a longer run. The production was managed by a well-known theatre company. The play was a modern adaptation of Greene's 1947 novel. It was a commercial failure, but it was praised for its bold casting of Welch in the lead role.

## IRA demands more British peace moves

**ELFALST (R)** — Irish Republicans paying homage to their war dead Sunday called on Britain to stop haggling and seize an historic opportunity for lasting peace in Northern Ireland after decades of conflict over London rule.

Flags flew over IRA graves on both sides of the Irish border during annual ceremonies held in a new atmosphere of peace seven months after the guerrilla force forsook violence in favour of a political road to a united Ireland.

But political momentum has hit stalemate and Republicans laid the blame with the British government, accusing it of deliberately stalling talks.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), supporting the peace process in its annual Easter message read at the ceremonies, declared Britain must accept its role in creating a lasting solution.

Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Féin, planned a speech in Dublin to reassert a demand for British ministers to drop their refusal to meet with other parties.

Sinn Féin spokesman Richard McAuley said: "He will say that the British government's refusal to accept the rights of the Sinn Féin electorate is at the heart of the current impasse."

Britain says the IRA is sitting on a mountain of weapons that it must "decommission" to prove its commitment to peace.

London officials have held initial peace talks with Sinn Féin but the government refuses to send in ministers because Republicans insist British forces must disarm too.

Despite high hopes of a breakthrough a month ago, the logjam has intensified, leading to clamour from mainstream Irish government and other nationalist parties for Britain to lift its block on talks and accelerate the peace process.

The region has experienced a fragile peace since Protestant guerrillas responded to their IRA foes in October with a matching truce in their violent campaign waged to protect British links.

British troops are back in barracks in most areas and patrolling police units no longer carry heavy weaponry.

Politicians in Northern Ireland's pro-British Protestant majority reacted angrily to an admission by Mr. Adams Saturday that the IRA was unlikely ever to hand over its weapons.

Ken Maginnis, a Ulster Unionist Party member of parliament, told BBC Radio it was further evidence of the Republicans' commitment to an "armalite (rifle) and ballot box strategy."

Sunday's annual ceremonies marked the 79th anniversary of the "Easter rising" in Dublin when revolutionaries seized the capital's General Post Office and other key points and fought a brief, doomed battle with British forces to set up a provisional Irish government.

The IRA regards itself as the inheritor of a struggle to reclaim Northern Ireland, which was retained by London under a partition settlement granting freedom to Ireland in 1922.

Irish police said Sunday they had discovered a small cache of arms and ammunition during a series of searches in County Cavan in the north of the country.

The find, which included mortars and 1,000 rounds of ammunition, was made Saturday night near the town of Ballyjamesduff, said a police spokeswoman.

Irish Republican Army guerrillas often stored weapons and ammunition near the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland before the group declared a ceasefire.

In Northern Ireland, police said they had completed a three-day search of a house where a large haul of arms and ammunition was uncovered.

Three people were charged following the seizure of more than 40 rifles, pistols and sub-machineguns as well as ammunition and arms-making equipment at a house south of Belfast.

Desmond Lindop, 41, an engineer at the Royal Ordnance Munitions Factory in Binley, Northern England, was charged with possessing and manufacturing weapons along with his brother Dennis Lindop, 46. Dennis Lindop's wife Myrtle, 42, was charged with withholding information.

Security analysts said some guns were high-standard, home-made weapons and probably belonged to the Ulster Volunteer Force — a banned Protestant extremist group that matched the IRA ceasefire last autumn.

Police said the building may have been used as a gun-making factory for the past two years.

Forensic experts were testing the guns to see whether any had been used in guerrilla attacks.

## Chirac firmly in lead as 1st round ballot nears

**PARIS (R)** — The first round of the French presidential election, campaign began its final week Sunday with conservative Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac firmly in the lead but unable to win the majority needed to avert a run-off ballot.

The final voter survey released ahead of a blackout on polls that took effect at midnight "Saturday" gave Mr. Chirac 26.5 per cent of the first-round vote to 20.5 per cent for Socialist Lionel Jospin and 16.5 per cent for conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

The IFOP poll for the weekly Le Journal Du Dimanche, conducted Friday on Saturday, suggested Mr. Chirac would face Mr. Jospin in the May 7 run-off and then go on to easily defeat the Socialist by 57 to 43 per cent.

However, about a third of voters said they still might change their minds in the campaign to choose a successor to Francois Mitterrand, who steps down next month after two seven-year terms as head of state.

Another 36.5 per cent said they intended to cast their first-round ballot for one of six other presidential candidates ranging from Jean-Marie Le Pen of the extreme-right National Front to Trotskyite Arlette Laguiller.

A week ahead of the April 23 initial ballot, Jean-Luc Parodi, National Political Science Foundation research director said: "Never during the Fifth Republic has the total of the two candidates qualifying for the second round been so weak."

"This shows a breakdown of the political system and a weakened legitimacy that could deprive the new president of his traditional state of grace," he wrote in Le Journal Du Dimanche.

The campaign has been marked primarily by a clash of personalities rather than a battle over ideology or issues.

The leading candidates agree that high unemployment is the nation's most pressing problem.

But their programmes differ more in emphasis than in substance, and economists predict that none of their proposals would make much of a dent in France's unemployment rate, which hovers at over 12 per cent despite a growing economy.

Two of the three leaders, Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur, are from the same Gaullist Rally For the Republic party.

The campaign has had three different frontrunners since beginning in earnest about eight months ago.

Mr. Balladur, the initial favourite and running primarily on his two-year record as prime minister, has been overtaken in the polls by both Socialist Jacques Delors and Mr. Chirac.

But Mr. Delors decided in December against becoming a candidate, leaving the Socialists without a standard-bearer until January, when ex-Education Minister Jospin was chosen.

Mr. Balladur sank a second time in February, after his government was hit in rapid succession by a wire-tapping scandal, a spy tiff with the United States and a controversy over his personal finances and public role.

By the first week in March, Mr. Chirac had assumed the lead, winning over young voters, women and even many on the left with his calls for radical change and charges that Mr. Balladur represented ineffective status-quo leadership.

Mr. Balladur stepped up his campaign, jabbing more aggressively at Mr. Chirac, claiming he too wanted change, and softening his image to appear less patrician.

But in the past week, the premier again began sinking in the polls as Mr. Chirac picked up steam ahead of the final stretch.



French presidential candidate and mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac (left), and his wife Bernadette (3rd left) pay a visit to elderly voters at a retirement home in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles (AFP photo)

## Russians shell Chechens last lowland stronghold

**MOSCOW (R)** — Russian forces continued their heavy shelling of Bamut Sunday, as they besieged the last bastion of Chechen rebels in the region's lowland, Interfax News Agency said.

But unlike Friday, when Russian troops were repelled by rebels hiding among nuclear-proof bunkers on a former Soviet missile base, there was no sign of any advance on Bamut, Interfax said in a report from neighbouring Ingushetia.

Interfax said talks between Russian commanders and the town elders from Bamut to secure its capitulation had failed. "Supporters of (Chechen leader) Dzhokhar Dudayev say they intend to resist to the end," it said.

The former missile base at Bamut is the last rebel stronghold in the fertile and agriculturally-developed land of northern and central Chechnya.

After a night of heavy artillery bombardment Friday, Russian forces tried to enter Bamut but were forced back by an intense counter-attack in which several soldiers were killed.

Once Bamut is captured, the rebels would be reduced to fighting a guerrilla war from the mountains of southern Chechnya where they have already set up bases.

Russia's military campaign launched in December to crush rebels in Chechnya, a mainly Muslim region which declared independence in 1991, has dragged on far longer than Moscow first envisaged.

Thousands of people, mostly civilians, have been killed.

On Friday, the Interior Ministry said the commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, Colonel General Anatoly Kulikov, needed a rest after three months in the field and would be replaced by Mikhail Yegorov, head of its Organised Crime Department.

Domestic and international criticism of the Russian campaign in Chechnya increased after reports of a massacre of civilians in the western Chechen town of Samashki a week ago.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and Russian troops killed at least 250 people, using "disproportionate" force, to capture the town.

The Interior Ministry denied the charge.

The European Union said Saturday it was deeply concerned at reports of human rights violations by Russian forces in Samashki and urged Russia to end violence against civilians.

The issue of the Kremlin's heavy-handed treatment of Chechnya is likely to mar next month's celebrations in Moscow marking the 50th anniversary of the allied victory in World War II.

Germany's opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) has urged Chancellor Helmut Kohl either to condemn Russia's war against Chechnya or stay at home.

Meanwhile, two months after Russian forces finally captured the Chechen capital — essentially by reducing large sections of it to rubble — the toothless 70-year-old Russian, Nina Nufreeva, can boast of having to walk only a kilometre to an outdoor pump to collect relatively clean drinking water.

The less fortunate can be seen gathering pails of cloudy water from the Sunzha River which runs through town. Decomposing corpses floated along its banks not long ago.

The Russian government promised a mass cleanup and reconstruction effort in Grozny after driving out separatist rebels but the city still almost entirely lacks even elementary services such as electricity and running water.

That has left people like Nina, who managed to survive Russian troops' mass bombardment of the former industrial centre of 400,000, furious and cynical at promises of help from Moscow.

"Help? From who, our alcoholic President Yeltsin? If I had to rely on him I would have croaked from hunger long ago," said Nina, a widow, as she filled her 40-litre plastic container with water and began to cart it away.

## Yeltsin returns from holiday to face problems

**MOSCOW (R)** — Russian President Boris Yeltsin returned from an extended holiday Sunday to face military conflicts in Chechnya and Tajikistan, mounting tensions with Ukraine and a series of other problems at home and abroad.

His holiday, divided between the North Caucasus sort of Kislovodsk and Sochi on the Black Sea, ended three weeks instead of the planned two.

He set the tone for his return in a Saturday interview with the official ITAR-TASS news agency in which he touched on a wide range of problems with the exception of the most burning one — bloody conflict in the separatist region of Chechnya.

Russian troops Sunday fled the town of Bamut, last rebel stronghold on Chechen lowland.

After taking Bamut, the Russians are expected to turn the southern mountains — the most of the rebels are concentrated.

Russia's military did little for Mr. Yeltsin's image last week when their capture of the town of Samashki triggered renewed accusations of atrocities.

The European Union said Saturday it was deeply concerned by reports of human rights violations by Russian forces in Samashki and urged Moscow to end violence against civilians.

The conflict will overshadow celebrations in Moscow marking the 50th anniversary of the allied victory over Nazi Germany in World War II on May 9. Dozens of world leaders are expected to attend, including U.S. President Bill Clinton, who then stays for a summit with Mr. Yeltsin.

When Mr. Yeltsin left for the holiday on March 27, he said he envisaged problems at the summit over Russia's plans to sell nuclear reactors to Iran, opposed by Washington.

But on Saturday he told TASS he expected the summit to be fruitful.

Mr. Yeltsin warned opposition groups against using the V-E Day ceremonies to stage "provocations."

The war in Chechnya is by far the most serious headache for Mr. Yeltsin, whose popularity is at a record low and who has yet to decide whether to run in presidential elections next year.

But problems are also mounting in the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan, where Russia runs the risk of a new war front opening up, reminiscent of the disastrous 10-year intervention in Afghanistan, where over 13,000 Soviet soldiers died.

Mr. Yeltsin said Friday he backed extra military aid to Tajikistan where Moscow forces are engaged in fighting with Islamic rebels based in Afghanistan and local insurgents.

Another hot issue for Mr. Yeltsin is Ukraine. He said on Saturday he would sign a much-delayed friendship treaty with Ukraine only after it solved a dispute with its autonomous region of Crimea, dominated by ethnic Russians.

His remarks are likely to further complicate Moscow's relations with Ukraine, which last month outlawed Crimea's constitution, eliminated the post of regional president and made its government directly responsible to Kiev.

Mr. Yeltsin also made clear Saturday he intended to fight attempts by parliament to reverse his decision to grant the main channel of the former Soviet television to a new, partially privatised company.

President Yeltsin Saturday rejected accusations by political opponents that he might be planning to cancel or postpone parliamentary and presidential elections. ITAR-TASS news agency said.

"In my (state of the nation) address to parliament I have stressed that elections would be held on dates spelled out by the constitution," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"I have no intention to change this position."



French Prime Minister and presidential candidate Edouard Balladur (left) chats with young residents of the southern Paris suburb of Plessis-Trévis during a campaign stop (AFP photo)

## Bhutto: U.S. visit will strengthen mutual ties

**ISLAMABAD (AFP)** — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said here Sunday that her visit to the United States had defined new, more mature parameters for Pakistan's future relations with Washington.

As thousands of party supporters turned out to greet her on her return, Ms. Bhutto told a news conference that talks with President Bill Clinton and U.S. lawmakers marked a "significant change" in the bilateral ties which had been in a "state of drift" since 1990.

She refused to comment on opposition claims she had returned empty handed due to a lack of a firm commitment by Washington on lifting an economic and military embargo.

Ms. Bhutto argued that her trip marked the first time a U.S. president had publicly said that "Pakistan has not been treated fairly."

Her aim had been to establish a relationship based on trade and not aid, she said, adding U.S. companies signed memoranda of understanding for investment commitments worth \$6 billion.

"This visit has thus proved to be a defining moment in the evolution of a new and more mature partnership in the post cold war era," she said.

The eight-day trip was the first by a Pakistani chief executive since the United States placed an embargo on economic and military assistance to Pakistan in 1990 because of concerns Islamabad was developing nuclear weapons.

Washington also stopped the delivery of 28 F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan and other equipment for which Pakistan had paid around \$1.4 billion.

During the visit Ms. Bhutto won two key pledges from Mr. Clinton to resolve the jet fighters issue and to mediate in the volatile Kashmir conflict.



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## Playing fair at U.N.

THE U.N. Security Council made an unsuccessful bid last week to allay the anxieties and fears of the non-nuclear countries when it adopted a half-backed resolution on the eve of the New York meeting to discuss the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). One article in the resolution spoke of offering "technical, medical, scientific or humanitarian assistance" to countries which stay away from developing or possessing nuclear weapons even if they were threatened by them. It is not surprising that the greater number of the nuclear have-nots immediately registered their disappointment with the council's action because what they had been waiting for and expecting was something much more coherent and effective. Non nuclear states which renounce the right to possess weapons available to the big and mighty nations deserve a more meaningful assistance should they be threatened by or become the targets of nuclear attacks. The least that is needed in this context is an ironclad assurance that the attacking or threatening country would be met with a resolute counterattack or threat from the five permanent members of the council.

This is not to mention that as things stand now with the council, in terms of its composition and rules of procedure, there can be no fail-safe guarantee that the principle five nuclear powers would or could indeed exercise this prerogative should it be agreed upon as a quid pro quo for accepting the indefinite extension of the treaty. The dismay of the weaker countries, as represented mainly by the Non-Aligned Movement nations, over the preparatory work being done in anticipation of this week's meeting in New York, was made loud and clear when they made it well-known in advance that they are not prepared to give the nuclear powers a blank check before their reasonable demands are met.

Even the pledge by the major nuclear powers to negotiate in "good faith," for nuclear disarmament does not go far enough to satisfy the legitimate concerns of the have-nots. The language used in the resolution suggests that the permanent members of the council have not been negotiating in good faith all along. This is one factor. Another is connected to the kind of assurances that the nuclear countries will give on their intentions for the future. Then there is the question of making the pious commitment to nuclear disarmament a sine qua non for the desired extension by making the renewal of the treaty contingent on the implementation of the promise to end nuclear armament within an agreed period. Short of doing what is necessary, there is every reason to suspect the real intentions of the big powers in attempting to extend the treaty.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

REGARDLESS OF the different views on the U.N. Security Council's decision that allowed Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil to buy medicine and food for its people, the step marks the beginning of the end of the unjust sanctions that have been imposed on the Iraqi people since August 1990, says Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Rai daily Sunday. As the world witnesses intensified moves on the part of Iraq, some Arab states and other nations to end the embargo, one can only admire the heroic steadfastness of the Iraqi people, who have been subjected to hardship and deprivation for so long, said the writer. Countries hostile to Iraq and the Arab people in general have been allocating millions of dollars to bring about the downfall of the Iraqi regime, which, said the writer, can only be changed from within; and so all enemy plans were futile all these years. All those Arabs who conspired with the enemy against their Iraqi brethren and Arab Nation to change the regime in Baghdad have failed in their bid, while the Kurds in the north, who chose to side with the enemy, have ended up serving the interests of the Turkish government and acting against their own kinsmen, said the writer.

AL DUSTOUR columnist Ali Safadi paid tribute to France and the French leaders for their consistent and firm policy with regard to the status of Jerusalem. Despite their involvement in the presidential campaigns and despite Jewish pressure, French leaders have proved to be sincere in their support for Arab rights and have not budged from their declared position and their non-recognition of Israel's illegal annexation of Arab Jerusalem, said the writer. Stressing the importance of such stand from a major world power concerning Arab rights, the writer said the French support for Arab and Palestinian rights come at a time when the Middle East peace process is passing through a crucial stage.

## Human Rights File

### All Jordanians are equal

THE CLASH between Circassian and Salti students at the University of Jordan last week is a grim reminder that the Jordanian house may not be in order to the extent that we all wish it to be. The latest outburst of violence between Jordanians on ethnic or origin basis was not an isolated incident. Similar events occurred at several university campuses and even during football matches. All these internal conflicts have been taking place against the backdrop of increasing de facto distinctions being made between Jordanians.

What exacerbates the local scene even further is the rise of tribalism and family associations. We are used to tribal loyalties and solidarities. But this trend has taken a turn for the worst when families large and small began to form their own associations and establish home headquarters for them as if they are some sort of additional features of the Jordanian house.

These trends lead me to the conclusion that we need a domestic peace process as much as we need an external or regional peace process. There is no sense in promoting peace on the outside if peace at home is allowed to erode to the extent that Jordanians become factionalised along ethnic or racial or religious or origin basis.

This assessment further leads me to the conclusion that perhaps we have not been doing our homework at the local level to the extent that is commensurate with the challenges of the new era facing the area. House tending is therefore urgently called for to promote a contemporary sense of citizenship by combating and preventing discrimination between Jordanians along racial, religious, ethnic or origin lines. Otherwise we all are going to inherit a situation that could be explosive and destabilising. I certainly do not have all the answers but I do know that we are all sowing the seeds for future domestic conflicts unless something is done to rectify current shortcomings. There are many reasons to suspect that this phenomenon is worrying to an increasing number of Jordanians across the board. Many so-called "saloon" talks are being devoted to this sensitive subject. The quiet discussions need to come up to the surface by all people who are genuinely concerned about the Kingdom and its future course. People who wish to stay silent are doing a great disservice to the country.

By Waleed Sa'idi

The beauty of this country lies in the fact that it is the flag bearer of the great Arab Revolt. This legacy in itself would impose on the Kingdom certain guidelines that are well enshrined in Arab nationalism as espoused by the revolution led by the late Sharif Hussein. What better proof of this than the fact that the army of Jordan is still called the Arab Army. There can be no differential treatment between one Jordanian and another under the crystal clear message of the founders of this country.

We have become parties to several international treaties on human rights, which would make any discrimination among Jordanians on whatever basis unlawful. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to cite but one example, is clear on the illegality of according differential treatment to citizens whether in fact or in law. The relevant human rights bodies created by the international human rights conventions often call for affirmative action to rectify any existing or lingering discrimination between nationals of any given country. In the U.S., where the African-Americans were especially targeted for discrimination in the past decades, new laws have been enacted not only to end this discrimination but also to call for increasing effort so that blacks are proportionally represented in all walks of life in due course.

Closer to home, the people of this country may bear the main responsibility towards ending any current negative distinctions between Jordanians. This fact, however, would not excuse the state from taking effective action towards this objective. To begin with, there is an urgent need for a political will on the part of all the branches of government to stop the negative trends that seem to be mushrooming right and left. The articulation of a clear policy statement on this score is urgently called for. Even more pressing is state practices that would add credence to this aspired state policy. Discriminatory practices will not end unless and until there is a clear signal from the government that distinctions between citizens would not be tolerated in word and deed. Jordan can then offer a fine example for all the other Arab countries on contemporary nationality by sticking to the message of the Arab Revolution in spite of all the challenges and negative experiences.



## Seeds of democracy in S. Arabia

By David Gardner

THE MAN who spoke first in the debate was an Egyptian Marxist. It was midnight in a wedding hall on the outskirts of Riyadh, and our host was a Saudi prince who had invited 100 intellectuals — a quarter of them from other Arab countries — to put their views on the politics, religion and culture of Saudi Arabia and the region.

Such open debate was "rarer than rain" in a society ruled on feudal lines by an absolute monarchy, a Palestinian academic observed, ignoring the freak showers that had just brought the desert into bloom. The prince's unique, if informal, majlis was a sign that something is stirring in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"There is now a lot of debate, inside and outside the monarchy," says another member of the royal family. "But what is being discussed is the speed of reform; what to change, how to do it, how to package it and sell it."

The House of Saud, which forged the modern Saudi Arabia in 1932 after a series of conquests, has overcome many challenges to its hegemony. It has managed the sudden arrival of great wealth from its ownership of a quarter of the world's oil reserves, followed by a downward spiral in oil prices; the importing of foreign labour equivalent to a third of the population; the 1979 seizure of the great mosque at Mecca by Islamist zealots, and the annual influx of two million Muslim pilgrims, including organised partisans of Iran's Islamic revolution; and the 1991 Gulf war, with the socially and politically discomfiting presence of some 800,000 foreign troops on Saudi soil.

"If you have looked at the emergencies and displacement this country has been through since the 1950s — and you didn't know the outcome — you would surely have concluded that (the Saudi state) had not survived," smiles one middle-ranking member of the royal family. "But I agree that the challenge is not over, in some respects, it is just begin-

ning." For years, the Al Saud have monopolised power and, in return, provided a subsidised livelihood for the masses and an affluent lifestyle for the elite. Now, however, the Al Saud grip on power is taut with unresolved tensions. Saudis are better educated and increasingly demanding, at a time when the government's reflex response to throwing money at the least twitch of discontent is finally being constrained by the effects of a decade of fiscal deficits.

Soft oil prices have led to a shortage of cash. Last year and this, the government decreed severe budget cuts to reduce the deficit from around nine per cent of gross domestic product in 1994 to about four per cent by the end of 1995. It has also delayed for rescheduled payments to foreign and Saudi contractors, and sharply raised bitherto minimal local fees for power, petrol, water, telephones and domestic flights. "We were living in a fat environment," says Abdul Rahman Al Zamil, deputy trade minister.

But there is little room for manoeuvre. Foreign assets have been run down to \$65 billion (\$40.6 billion) — about half pre-Gulf war levels or a third of holdings a decade ago — and these are illiquid. The kingdom spent up to \$60bn underwriting the Gulf war and is committed to \$80bn in capital outlays, two-thirds of it on weapons, worsening a 10-year-old trend of large current account deficits.

Government officials rightly point to achievements in developing infrastructure and diversifying away from crude oil production to petrochemicals, plastics and other industries. Mr. Al Zamil says \$16bn in spending cuts last year were "replaced" by an increase in private-sector investment of \$15bn, keeping growth marginally positive. But domestic growth does not supply the government with revenue, almost all of which comes from oil.

Part of the Saudi social contract is that there is no income tax, with corporate tax only on foreign companies, most of which have been set up under tax holi-

day schemes. King Fahd in January told his subjects this year's utility price rises were only temporary, but that depends on the oil market. The extra revenue raised by this year's budget would evaporate with little more than a \$1 drop in the price of crude.

Dissent in the kingdom is diffuse and hard to quantify, and is as likely to focus on corruption and the conspicuous consumption of some members of the royal family as on the overall policy of financial austerity.

The Saudi regime is to some extent a victim of its successes. In the last 25 years, half a million Saudis educated abroad have been exposed to outside influences, and the government has imposed education for a generation of women, who nevertheless remain invisible under the austere Islamic social code, segregated in public and at work. Civil service pay structures have not been changed for 14 years, making many young Saudis dependent on extended families to get by. "This is a society in ferment," a Western diplomat says.

Although tough decisions lie ahead — such as whether to introduce wider taxation and a mooted mini-budget with a further four per cent spending cut on top of 19 per cent in 1994 and six per cent this year — there is no effective mechanism for consultation. Two years ago King Fahd created a Majlis Al Shura (consultative council) to fill this vacuum. But although its 60 members are highly educated, they are nominated by the king, who may ignore them.

Policy-making can be hesitant, with public opinion tested only after a new policy has been announced. "You get the input to policy-making at the point of output," says one academic, referring to the frequent withdrawal of edicts once they are found to antagonise particular interest groups. Four years ago, a decree levying income tax on foreigners was revoked within 48 hours when it became clear that hospitals and universities dependent on them would grind to a halt.

Opinions differ on the

M. Kahl

## Arafat, Islamists pull back from brink

By Robert Mahoney  
Reuters

GAZA — On the surface Gaza looks as though it is becoming another Lebanon.

Basic ingredients for civil war are already in place — factional fighting, Islamic fundamentalism, an abundance of arms, poverty and the continued presence of Israeli troops.

Tension between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the militant Muslim groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad is the highest since Yasser Arafat took charge of the self-rule Palestinian authority last July.

But Mr. Arafat and the Islamists are now trying to pull back from the abyss, believing that open warfare would serve only Israel.

In interviews with Reuters, Islamic activists and PLO officials expressed anger and fear at the deteriorating political and security situation in the Gaza Strip. But most wanted to leave the door open for dialogue.

"I think in the future there must be a real, serious dialogue between Hamas and the authority," said Imad Falouji, an activist in Hamas and a founding member of its military wing Qassam.

He was speaking after what Islamists agreed was the heaviest crackdown Mr. Arafat had ever staged against them. More than 200 have been arrested since Islamic Jihad and Hamas suicide bombers killed seven Israeli soldiers and a U.S. woman going to Jewish settlements in Gaza on Sunday.

PLO sources said Mr. Arafat was furious, taking the attacks as an assault on his personal credibility and authority. He is stung by taunts that the 1993 peace accord has done nothing

but relieve Israel of the burden of policing Gaza.

"He thinks the Islamic movements have crossed the red line and put his autonomy project in serious danger," said an Islamic Jihad member. "So he has decided to fight back."

But not hard enough to provoke a violent backlash from groups that have small military wings but widespread political and social support.

"Arafat is reacting to Israeli pressure but Hamas will never point its guns at the chest of the authority," Hamas leader Sayeed Abu Musameh said. "Our every action proves this, even after Nov. 18 we did not take revenge," he said, referring to the killing by Palestinian police last year of some 14 people during clashes with Hamas.

"Both sides are convinced there shouldn't be an escalation," Mr. Falouji said. "We know there is no alternative to Abu Ammar (Arafat) despite the difference in our ideologies."

Mr. Falouji said the first goal of both camps was the same, the creation of an independent Palestinian state. They differed only on the means.

"The Palestinian authority says we can reach our goals through negotiations. We say negotiation is not enough and events are proving us right. Armed struggle is necessary. Israel does not understand the language of dialogue," he said.

Mr. Arafat wants to live alongside Israel, while working with its sworn enemies, Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

"Israel controls the land, air and sea around the Gaza Strip," said an Israeli official. "Once the settlements are gone from there, what do we care what the Palestinians do to each other so long as it does not harm us."

## LETTERS

### Attitude towards animals must change

To the Editor:

ON BEHALF of the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals (JSPA), may I thank Ahmad Y. Majdoub for writing the article "Pet responsibility, pet abuse and the authorities," (the Jordan Times, April 13). It is a subject which has become of great concern to us.

Dr. Majdoub is right when he says there is much ignorance about keeping pets. We receive many complaints about dogs being kept tied on very short chains without shelters from all weathers, with no water, little food and no exercise. Consequently, the dogs excrete and urinate where they are tied and live a life of misery and extreme boredom, often becoming aggressive because of it. This is similar to humans being kept in a prison in unsanitary and inhumane conditions. The dog is being "punished" by being imprisoned merely for existing. We also receive complaints that neighbours who don't like pets take pot-shots at them or stone them over the garden wall.

If an owner hasn't time to exercise a dog then he shouldn't have one. However, there is a compromise. He can fix up a "running wire" several meters long, to which the dog's chain can be attached, so that at least it can move up and down and stretch its legs. We find that among city and suburban dwellers a German Shepherd dog is a kind of "status symbol." Some of these are kept just to look at, tied short without adequate shelter, where they can be neither a pet nor a guard dog.

Frequently, we are asked by the villagers in Wadi Seer why we walk the dogs we have at our new clinic, and sometimes children from three years upwards will throw stones at them while the dogs are actually on leads.

Children have been brought up to throw stones at dogs and cats as soon as they can walk, because the animals are regarded as "dirty." We recently found two kittens which had been stoned to death, one kilometre from the clinic. We have found many animals, including sheep, goats, donkeys and horses with an eye missing as a result of stone-throwing. Most dogs and cats are in fact very clean if looked after properly and trained the correct way. A disciplined animal is a pleasure to have, as is a disciplined child.

Most animal problems are caused by the ignorance or irresponsibility of owners, and not the animals themselves. Very few dogs are born vicious. If treated well from birth, the majority are very tractable and will be very faithful and friendly to a good owner. They will become aggressive if they are kept constantly tied short, have stones thrown at them, are not fed properly and are treated as if they are inanimate objects. They are then only defending themselves against abuse and indifference.

Dr. Majdoub rightly says that people need to be educated about pets. In February 1994 JSPA began an educational programme about the care and welfare and respect of animals, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, visiting schools to give lectures and show slides and videos. The teachers also discuss various aspects with the children. It is interesting to note that many children think it is the right thing to do to regard dogs and cats as animals to be shot at and stoned. We also have a video on training pet dogs basic obedience, for those who need to learn.

We would welcome help from the media to put the message over, but owners themselves need to make an effort to improve the situation. It is of great benefit to humans as well as animals, which should not be penalised just for being alive.

Miss Chris Larter,  
JSPA,  
Wadi Seer, Amman.







## APEC finance ministers call for currency stability

SANUR, Indonesia (R) — Pacific rim finance ministers ended a one-day meeting Sunday without venturing to express a view on how to rein in the soaring yen, but issued a cautious appeal for more stability in currency markets.

On the sidelines, U.S. and Japanese finance ministers did tackle the region's main currency problem — what to do about the yen's surge against the dollar — but made little headway.

Some ministers said such issues were just too sensitive for the recently created Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, grouping 18 key economies from both sides of the Pacific committed to dismantling trade barriers by the year 2020.

"It was a kind of hands-off topic. I think the niceties of such meetings sort of preclude... intensive discussion of issues that might be seen to be embarrassing," Australian Treasurer Ralph Willis told Reuters financial television.

Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and his U.S. counterpart Robert Rubin came out of their talks on the fringes of the APEC gathering, with differing interpretations of what they had agreed with each other.

Mr. Rubin stopped well short of welcoming Japan's recent package to halt the yen's rise and spur the domestic economy.

He said the pair had agreed to continue to work together in currency markets where appropriate, but disputed suggestions by Mr. Takemura that they had agreed to strengthen cooperation.

"I don't recollect the word strengthen. My recollection is that we agreed to continue to cooperate as we have in the past," he said.

Sunday's gathering on the palm-fringed Indonesian resort island of Bali was only the second in APEC's brief history.

Officials stressed beforehand that it was a consultative meeting and would look at long-term solutions to capital and currency problems brought into sharp relief by recent market turmoil, rather than try any short-term trouble-shooting.

Mar'ie Muhammad, Indonesia's finance minister and host for the shirt-sleeved gathering, made it clear to reporters that ministers had not discussed the specific currency wrangle and were not about to air individual views about its impact.

APEC's final statement noted that member states were increasingly vulnerable to rapid movements of capital which followed any sharp swings in a currency's value and affected investment in the country's economy.

"With the growth of capital flows and the increased reliance of all economies on them has come increasing vulnerability to rapid shifts in the volume and directions of such flows," it said, making clear this was a cause for concern.

But, minister added, the exchange rate policies of individual members could not be uniform. They must be part of wider macro-economic policies to control inflation and keep sustainable deficits.

"We need a joint effort in this regard and I would like to reemphasize that macro-economic stability is highly preferred," Mr. Muhammad told a news conference.

Ministers agreed to offer investors more economic information to help avoid sudden fund shifts. They called for more coordination between public and private sectors in financing infrastructure development.

They agreed to meet in March next year in Kyoto, Japan.

## Survey: More than 3m jobs to be created in U.S. this year

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. executives expect more than three million jobs to be created this year, with about half coming from businesses with less than 20 employees, a survey has said.

Dun and Bradstreet Corp.'s annual "5,000 survey of employment expectations" showed that firms with less than 100 employees are expected to account for 66 per cent of all new jobs created this year.

Larger firms with more than 5,000 employees will only account for six per cent of all new jobs in 1995, the survey said.

"Smaller and typically younger firms are taking advantage of the current economic strength to grow," said Joseph Duncan, vice president and chief economist for Dun and Bradstreet.

The survey is based on a sample of 5,000 U.S. companies selected from a database of more than 10 million American businesses. The survey is statistically representative of the distribution of firms by size and industry in the U.S. economy.

The survey showed that 24 per cent of firms with fewer than 20 employees reported plans to add jobs this year.

Thirty per cent of firms with 20 to 49 employees said they would increase employment levels, and 34 per cent of firms with 50 to 99 employees expected an increase.

Executives in the retail and service sectors expected the most job growth, while manufacturing and wholesale trade businesses predicted a decline in 1995 from the year before.

While larger firms predicted growth to be slow this year, the survey found many will still add jobs and lower the number of job cuts.

Only eight per cent of companies with 25,000 or more employees predict they will cut jobs this year, compared to 24 per cent during 1994. Twenty one per cent of these companies expect to add jobs this year, up three per cent from a year ago.

The survey also showed more employee raises this year. Executives in mining, manufacturing, transportation, utilities, financial services, real estate, wholesale trading and the government expect to increase employee compensation.

Dun and Bradstreet is the world's largest marketer of information, software and services for businesses.

## Iran not to suffer much from U.S. restrictions

DUBAI (R) — Iran is not expected to suffer greatly from a proposed widening of U.S. trade sanctions but experts said Sunday Tehran would need a few weeks to find new customers if U.S. firms were barred from lifting its crude oil.

"It will zero out in the end, nobody will win and no one will lose," said a Western oil executive who frequently visits Iran.

The White House is considering options to extend trade restrictions between U.S. companies and Iran. Last month it issued an order barring U.S. firms from working to develop Iran's oil and gas industry.

But the executive said if U.S. firms were barred from purchasing Iranian crude, Tehran "will eventually find new customers to lift its oil. It will take a few weeks to sort itself out."

He said he did not expect such a ban to include foreign subsidiaries of U.S. firms.

"The Americans will have to go somewhere else to compensate the loss of Iranian crude, taking up shares of other customers who will in turn go to Iran to meet their needs," he added.

Many American oil companies do business in Iran through subsidiaries with equipment manufactured in Europe and Asia to bypass a ban on export of U.S. technology to the Islamic republic.

"In the worst-case scenario, our work will proceed in the same fashion 95 per cent unchanged with work being done by (U.S.) overseas subsidiaries," the executive added.

The Middle East Economic Survey said Monday that U.S. firms lifted about 370,000 barrels per day (b/d) of Iranian crude in March, down from a 1994 average of 618,000 b/d.

The latest moves by Washington to tighten trade restrictions on Iran began last month when the White House barred Conoco Inc., a subsidiary of Dupont Co., from carrying out a \$1 billion deal with Iran to develop oil and gas fields in the Gulf.

Iran is now turning to European firms, mainly Total S.A. of France which was the runner-up for the deal won by Conoco, to undertake the development project.

Experts say many non-U.S. firms are more than willing to do business with

Tehran. "You just can't ignore a country with Iran's size and (oil and gas) potential," said an industry expert. Iran has the world's second largest gas reserves after Russia.

Iran, a terrorist state in the eyes of Washington, has had tense ties with the United States since the 1979 Islamic revolution and the two sides often trade accusations.

Washington, seeking to isolate Iran internationally, applies pressure on allies and international financial institutions not to help Tehran with loans and technology.

Managing director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC), Ahmad Rahgozar, threatened in remarks published Sunday to scrap contracts for supplying \$240 million worth of petrochemicals to three U.S. firms.

He told the English-language daily Iran News: "Over the last four months it (NPC) has refused to supply petrochemical projects to these companies which is a great loss to them."

But experts said failure to supply the three unnamed firms was probably due to domestic shortages.

## Japan says yen debts with developing countries stand

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan again rejected calls by many developing countries for an easing of the cost of servicing loans denominated in yen which has risen in line with the fall of the dollar.

"We feel sympathy for nations holding yen loans amid the yen's surge," a Japanese foreign ministry official told AFP. "But so far, we have no plan to ease the burden only because of the short-term fluctuation in foreign exchange rates."

Many Asian currencies are linked to the dollar and many exports of commodities from Asian countries are priced in dollars.

The official said that the ministry had received scores of requests from debtor nations, particularly from Asia where 78.3 per cent of total low-interest loans by Japan are held.

At the end of 1993, Indonesia topped the loan list, with 2.46 trillion yen (\$20 billion), followed by India with 1.4 trillion yen and China with 1.3 trillion yen.

"We acknowledge their difficulties of repayment, but it is a rule that they must repay in yen because they borrow in yen," the officials said, ruling out possible renegotiation

over the issue in the near future.

Meanwhile, the surging yen has two sides for many foreign importers, making their products cheaper but threatening sales if the high exchange rate throws Japan back into a recession, businesses and analysts have said.

"It doesn't do much good if your customers are losing money and can't buy your products," said Cedric Talbot, president of British-based A.P. Japan Ltd.

Mr. Talbot acknowledged that his company had profited from a rise of 16 per cent in the value of the yen against the dollar since the beginning of the year. His company has won contracts from Japanese automakers because the price of the parts he sells, many of which are imported from the United States, has fallen.

"But when it hits 80 yen to the dollar, that's ridiculous," Mr. Talbot said.

Ted Iwaski, chairman of Applied Materials of Japan, a U.S.-based company importing semiconductor and other computer parts into Japan, said that his firm has been able to cut its prices because of the rise of the yen.

## Greenspan says inflation is under control worldwide

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation is under control around the globe and the job of central banks worldwide is to keep up the progress, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said.

On another issue, the head of the U.S. central bank rejected more regulation to prevent another investment bank collapse like the one suffered by Baring Brothers and Co., arguing tighter self-policing by private firms instead.

"An environment conducive to stable product prices and to maintaining sustainable economic growth is central responsibility of central banks," Mr. Greenspan said in a speech to a monetary policy conference in Stockholm, Sweden.

"Perhaps the most important development that has occurred in recent years has been the shift from an environment of inflationary expectations built into both business planning and financial contracts toward an environment of lower inflation. It is important that progress continue," Mr. Greenspan said.

"Few now question the overall benefits for economic growth and stability of the dramatic slowdown in the rate of price inflation on a worldwide basis over the past decade," Mr. Greenspan said. "Fewer should question the need to maintain a credible long-run commitment to price stability."

As for the collapse of Baring Brothers, the British investment house that lost nearly \$1 billion in the Asian futures markets, Mr. Greenspan said one lesson is that "large losses can be created quite efficiently. Today's technology enables single individuals to initiate massive transactions with very rapid execution."

But he said putting up barriers to technology or derivatives is not the answer because, "suppressed markets in one location would be rapidly displaced by others outside the reach of government controls and taxes."

Greater cooperation and coordination among central banks also can assure that bank failures do not lead to panic, he said. "Provision of adequate liquidity is essential to effective containment of disturbances," Mr. Greenspan said.

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## Gold demand rises in Arab Gulf states

DUBAI (R) — Gold demand in Arab Gulf states grew by 7.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1995 despite the pressures of recession and tight budgets in the region, a World Gold Council (WGC) official said Sunday.

Pedro Bertran, WGC area manager for the Middle East and India, told a news conference that preliminary estimates showed demand for gold in the Gulf rose to 53.7 tonnes in the first quarter of 1995 from 50.1 tonnes in the same period of 1994.

"Encouraging results show the resilience of the Gulf even under recession and budget-tight times," Mr. Bertran said.

Promotional activities and unexpectedly high sales during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in Saudi Arabia were the main reason behind the rise in demand in the Gulf, Mr. Bertran said.

"This significant increase in demand in Saudi Arabia early in the year is a positive sign for stimulation in demand in 1995," he added.

The Saudi economy, like most of the other Gulf states, has been plagued by low oil prices, budget deficits and severe cuts in public spending. Traders say that people in the Gulf in general don't have as much disposable income as in the past.

Mr. Bertran said gold imports into Dubai, the fifth largest gold trade centre in the world, rose by 51 per cent

to 62.4 tonnes in January/February 1995 from the same period in 1994, continuing the upward trend of the previous three quarters.

But Dubai's first-quarter gold consumption did not move so dramatically, climbing by only two per cent to 10.2 tonnes from 10 tonnes in the same period last year.

Most gold imported by Dubai is reexported, mostly to the Indian subcontinent where it is a common form of investment.

Mr. Bertran said "the global recession and the tightening of the local budget" were still hampering growth in Dubai.

He said reexports were vigorous but did not give details. Dubai's reexports were apparently buoyed by a significant rise in demand in India, the world's largest gold market.

Demand in India climbed to 124.8 tonnes in the first

quarter of 1995, a 37.7 per cent rise over the first quarter of 1994.

In Saudi Arabia gold consumption rose by 8.5 per cent to 43.5 tonnes in the first quarter of 1995 from the 1994 first-quarter.

Mr. Bertran said the Middle East and India together consumed 197.5 tonnes of gold in the first quarter of 1995, a growth of 29 per cent over the 1994 first-quarter level.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 17, 1995

By: Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer; Carol Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) In the morning find a better way of using your practical talents so that you can increase your income this later tonight rest up.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a good morning for coming to a better understanding with a fellow associate by having a wise discussion.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can cement better relations with a partner if you take a firm stand and do not listen to fellow associates.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) By talking to an expert you can learn about extra benefits which can come to you today. Be kind.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Find new gadgets which can make living at home less dring and more charming. Then tonight get out for the pleasure you like.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do whatever is necessary to improve your state of health this morning. Then plan amusements for tonight very wisely.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Set up appointments early this morning with those you like for this evening, but tonight be very careful in handling some money matter of importance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can gain the aid of good friends this morning, but forget your worries later tonight and make big headway.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Have a secret talk with a bigwig and garner the information you require for a new project today for greater success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get together with good friends in going after new interests today and you succeed very quickly in a new assignment.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study how you can gain greater prestige this morning, and then take the right steps in that direction.

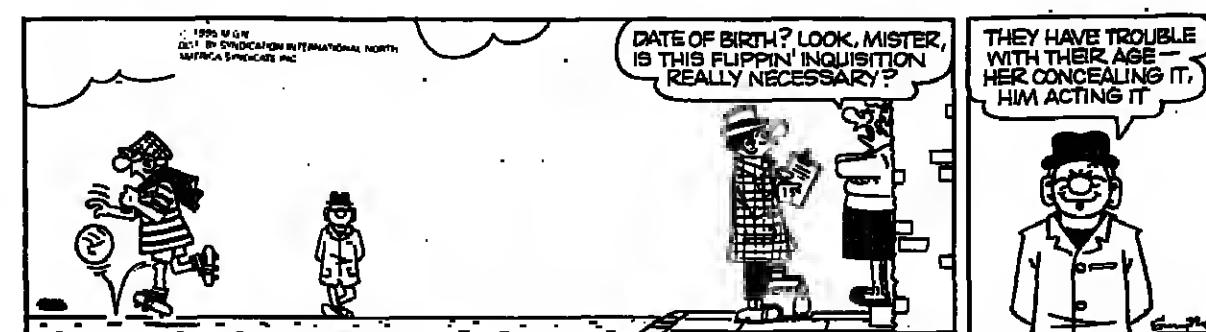
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Talking over financial affairs with your loved ones is wise this morning, but later tonight avoid some group.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arlison

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

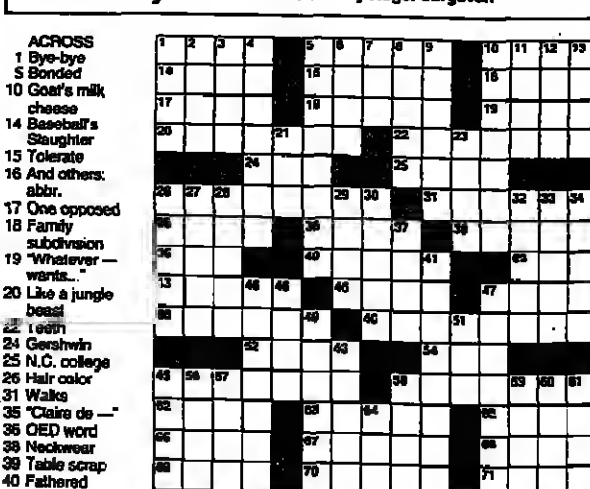
SCOTI  
PHECO  
TILPUF  
GLOONB

Answers: SCOTI: SCOTI; PHECO: PHECO; TILPUF: TILPUF; GLOONB: GLOONB.

Yesterday's Jumbles: CREEK PARTY EXOTIC PHYSIC

Answer: What the spy considered his toupee —

## THE Daily Crossword by Roger Junggren



Answers: 1. SCOTI; 2. PHECO; 3. TILPUF; 4. GLOONB.

Yesterday's Jumbles: CREEK PARTY EXOTIC PHYSIC

Answer: What the spy considered his toupee —

Answers: SCOTI; PHECO; TILPUF; GLOONB.

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Answers: SCOTI; PHECO; TILPUF; GLOONB.

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Answers: SCOTI; PHECO; TILPUF; GLOONB.



Business & Finance

JD10m private sector company to exploit Jordan mineral resources

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After several years of deliberations, the government has given shape to a private sector entity to exploit Jordan's mineral resources, particularly in the underdeveloped south of the Kingdom, Energy of Mineral Resources Minister Samih Darwazah said Sunday.

Expected to start operations in about two months, the JD 10 million capital company will be the first such venture to focus on minerals such as feldspar, silica, gypsum, basalt, clay etc., often cited by experts as an area left unexplored for many years despite indications that it could prove to be very lucrative.

One of the main reasons cited by the government for the lack of interest in the area was a drive to gather private sector interest in the venture rather than investing state funds in mineral exploration.

The proposed formation of the company, which has yet to be registered, follows the establishment of a JD 20 million capital state-owned firm to explore for oil and natural gas in the Kingdom. That company is also expected to take off around July 1.

Mr. Darwazah said the founders of the mineral exploration firm, which will operate as a holding group, included the semi-government phosphates mines company, cement factories, ceramics company and glass wool company in addition to firms from Saudi Arabia and Egypt which he did not identify.

While some of the founding firms are majority state-owned, "the government will have nothing to do with the new company," said the minister.

"The founders will provide 75 per cent of the capital, and the rest, 25 per cent will be raised from the public through shares," the minister told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Darwazah said the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources had invited these companies and provided them with detailed studies of the mineral potential in Jordan and urged them to launch the venture.

"Jordan, particularly the south, is rich with minerals," said the minister. "All you have to do is to start working there."

Mr. Darwazah cited the high-quality silica available in the desert, widely used in glass industries, as an example of the potential. "We are talking about millions of tonnes of silica here," he said, noting that silica could also be used in non-glass industries after processing.

Initial studies of the desert sand have indicated the presence of vital components for fibre optic cables, precision lenses, computer chips and other industrial ceramics, according to experts at the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Also found were fillers for foundries, elements for sewage treatment systems, and ingredients for rubbers, paints, adhesives and scouring powers.

The studies also indicated that Jordan need not import some of the raw material it buys from Turkey and other countries for use in its foundries and could instead export some of the items.

Mr. Darwazah said the proposed company will not launch an all-out approach and try to develop exploitation of all minerals at the same time.

"The company will take one item at a time, make technical and feasibility studies and start processing and marketing" it before going on to the next item, he said.

"The government will encourage any project" along these lines, he said. The government has already given permission to the private sector venture "to explore these resources" and "I hope it will start operations in about two months" after 25 per cent of the capital is raised through a public issue of shares, he added.

UAE says bad debt problem is over

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) banks have fully recovered from the problem of bad debts after building up large reserves and they are now making high profits, the central bank said Sunday.

The bank was reacting to figures issued at a recent seminar in Sharjah showing bad and doubtful debts surged to around 25.7 billion dirhams (\$7 billion) in 1994 from 17.5 billion dirhams (\$4.76 billion) in 1988 and only one billion dirhams (\$272 million) in 1980.

The figures, published by the Emirates Banking Training Institute, did not make clear how interest rates were calculated on those loans.

"The central bank wishes to clarify that the figures about bad loans are now history since the problem occurred 10 years ago," it said in a statement. "All banks operating in the UAE have suspended interest on those loans and set aside large provisions to face possible losses. Therefore, the problem of bad and doubtful debts in the UAE no longer exists."

The bad debt problem inflicted large losses on several UAE banks in the mid-1980s and some of them were forced to merge to avert collapse.

The biggest merger occurred between three banks in 1985 into the Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB).

now one of the top banks in the UAE. Its previous manager, Sultan Al Suwaidi, is now governor of the central bank.

The bad debt crisis was caused by a rush by banks to extend loans and credits during the oil boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Many debtors failed to repay when a decline in oil prices hit their business and plunged the whole region into a recession.

ADCB and the National Bank of Abu Dhabi, the biggest banking unit in the Emirates, suffered most but they have started to make profits in the past few years.

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ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 16/04/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	480	92640	192.750	193.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	35100	167582	4.820	4.740
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	4650	19768	4.270	4.620
BANK OF JORDAN	1000	3715	3.715	3.740
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	16200	26481	1.640	1.630
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2650	7447	2.760	2.820
THE HOUSING BANK	45500	358792	7.960	7.800
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	5000	14608	2.930	2.930
JORDAN GULF BANK	14150	19951	1.430	1.390
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	2100	7350	3.500	3.500
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	17545	68343	3.860	3.920
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2385	9835	4.000	4.150
BEIT KHALIL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	801	3190	3.190	3.210
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	109007	129127	1.270	1.300
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	298150	570079	1.860	1.950
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>544811</b>	<b>1496728</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 168.03</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.10%</b>
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	8950	24785	2.790	2.760
YARAKAT INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	1678	1678	1.000	1.000
THE NATIONAL AMILA INSURANCE	500	300	3.000	3.000
DELTA INSURANCE	500	1250	2.400	2.500
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>10200</b>	<b>28332</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 136.16</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.14%</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	10100	16635	1.650	1.650
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	19795	30935	1.570	1.570
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	100000	72000	7.200	7.200
THE ADAM HOTEL & TOURISM	233	266	1.090	1.140
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	653	5992	9.190	9.240
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	18800	60560	3.210	3.240
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	8900	21003	2.340	2.380
JORDAN INVESTMENT	2150	2453	1.130	1.150
ACCIDENT INVESTMENT	900	590	0.650	0.650
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCIAL HOTELS	11600	31588	2.760	2.730
JORDANIAN EXPRATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	1500	1865	1.250	1.260
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>174279</b>	<b>286618</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 143.18</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.49%</b>
ATTACHED CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	100	111	1.120	1.150
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	26023	79889	3.070	3.080
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	100	255	2.550	2.550
THE ADAM PHOSPHATE MINES	350	1732	4.850	5.000
JORDAN TILES MANUFACTURING	540	5992	9.190	9.240
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	240	962	3.610	3.610
THE JORDAN MOBILE MILLS	120	1245	8.400	8.300
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	658	26561	4.110	4.110
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	250	575	2.300	2.300
BAFIA INDUSTRIES	2550	6339	2.480	2.490
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	4250	33803	8.000	7.980
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	15600	14422	0.910	0.910
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	250	1800	7.250	7.200
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	24880	16422	0.660	0.660
GENERAL INVESTMENT	2500	7700	3.100	3.100
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	21750	34572	1.600	1.600
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	2170	3100	3.100	3.100
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	12600	34539	2.660	2.750
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	700	2968	4.250	4.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & TRADING / JIMCO	3000	2070	0.700	0.690
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWICO	800	4815	5.000	5.000
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	5700	9612	1.690	1.680
ARAB CENTER FOR FARM & CHEMICALS	2249	5256	2.370	2.230
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1550	3167	3.540	3.530
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1300	2600	2.020	2.000
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>134258</b>	<b>300117</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 121.43</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.37%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>863548</b>	<b>2711793</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 147.14</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.02%</b>
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	215500			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	279450			

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (April 10 - April 14, 1995)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated marginally against the yen at the end of last week, while appreciating against the mark and sterling. It ended the week 0.20 per cent lower against the yen, 0.54 per cent higher against the mark and 0.27 per cent higher against sterling.

The U.S. unit rose sharply against the mark and sterling Monday, while stabilising against the yen. Although the dollar fell to an all-time record low against the yen to reach 80.15 yen during Tokyo's trading hours, it rose sharply against major currencies later that day. Dealers anticipated that the dollar should find a support at the 80 yen level.

The dollar continued its appreciation against sterling Tuesday, while, depreciating against the mark and yen. The dollar's decline came on the back of the release of U.S. producer's price index showing a rise of 0.3 per cent in March, unchanged from the previous month. The producer's price index bolstered expectations that the U.S. economy is cooling down and there is no need for the Open Market Committee to alter its monetary stance soon.

The U.S. unit rose against the yen Wednesday, while depreciating marginally against the mark. The dollar lost ground against the mark after the release of U.S. consumer's price index showing a modest rise of 0.2 per cent in March, compared to 0.3 per cent in the previous month.

While, New York was closed on an official holiday Friday, the dollar declined sharply against the European currencies and marginally against the yen Thursday. Dealers reacted to the release of U.S. capacity utilisation statistics showing a decline to 48.9 per cent in March, compared to 85.4 per cent in the previous month, whereas industrial production showed a decline of 0.3 per cent in March. These economic statistics raised questions whether the Fed will tighten its monetary policy. Meanwhile, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) announced that it is committed to an economic reform plan that aims at adjusting its ailing economy. As a result, the BOJ reduced its discount rate by 75 basis points to one per cent the lowest discount rate ever, in an effort to stimulate domestic demand and reduce foreign trade surplus.

The U.S. unit, thus coded the week at 1.3863 marks, 83.55 yen and at \$1.6100 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	Friday April - 7 - 1995 Close	Friday April - 14 - 1995 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.6143	1.6100	(0.27)
Deutsche Mark	1.3788	1.3863	(0.54)
Swiss Franc	1.1288	1.1450	(1.41)
French Franc	4.7855	4.8400	(6.13)
Japanese Yen	83.72	83.55	0.20

Narrow-Currency Interest Rates\*

Currency	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	3-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	6.00	6.56	6.12	6.68
Sterling Pound	6.12	7.44	6.25	7.56
Deutsche Mark	4.44	4.81	4.62	5.00
Swiss Franc	3.12	3.31	3.50	3.81
French Franc	7.31	6.69	7.76	7.00
Japanese Yen	1.56	1.50	1.56	1.50

Interest rate paid for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Dates: April - 15 - 1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6860	0.6890
Sterling Pound	1.0995	1.1050
Deutsche Mark	0.4927	0.4952
Swiss Franc	0.5955	0.5985
French Franc	0.1412	0.1419
Japanese Yen*	0.8237	0.8278
Dutch Guilder	0.4400	0.4422
Swedish Krona		
Italian Lira*	0.0401	0.0403
Italian Franc		

\* Per 100

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## Kingdom's Davis Cup team defeats UAE 2-1

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Davis Cup team scored their only win of the tournament when they defeated the United Arab Emirates 2-1 on the final day of their Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 Championship which concluded in Dubai Sunday.

Imad Abu Hamda won the first singles match, while Faris Azzouni lost the second singles. Abu Hamda and Khaled Hussein later teamed up for the doubles match which they won to secure Jordan's first victory.

The results of the Kingdom's team mean that Jordan will again play in Group 3 next year after losing their chance of being promoted to the senior division Group 2 in 1994 since only the top team in the six-nation group will be promoted.

The Kingdom's team were disappointed Saturday when they lost their playoff against Pacific Oceania 3-0.

Earlier Jordan had lost 3-0 against Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh, and 2-1 to Lebanon.

With team veteran Imad Abu Hamda out of action with a bad cold, Khaled Hussein lost the first singles match 6-3, 6-2 to Lency Tena of Pacific Oceania. Montik Kailahi then beat Jordan's Faris Azzouni 1-6, 6-2, 6-2. Kailahi and Tena later teamed up for the doubles against Hussein.

and 15-year-old Khaled Nafa'a to win 6-3, 6-3.

The round robin competition was played on a hectic, daily two singles and one doubles match format, with only the top team in the group being promoted to Group 1 before joining the prestigious World Group which includes teams such as the United States, Germany, and others.

The Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 tournament in Dubai is one of the largest in Davis Cup competition as 13 teams played 108 matches at one single

venue. Singapore led Group A which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria, Oman, Kazakhstan and Brunei.

In Group A matches, Bahrain defeated Oman 2-1, Singapore beat Syria 3-0 and Kazakhstan overcame Brunei 2-1.

Saudi Arabia led Group B after defeating Bangladesh 3-0 while Lebanon also defeated the UAE 3-0.

Pacific Oceania are second behind the Saudis while Bangladesh, who led the six-team Group B until Friday, slipped to third position, followed by Lebanon, Jordan and the UAE.

### STANDINGS before Sunday's matches

#### GROUP A

Nations	Points	Matches Won	Sets Won	Sets Lost
Singapore	5	15	30	4
Bahrain	5	12	25	8
Kuwait	3	10	23	10
Syria	2	6	14	19
Kazakhstan	1	4	12	28
Oman	1	4	8	25
Brunei	1	3	6	24

#### GROUP B

Nations	Points	Matches Won	Sets Won	Sets Lost
Saudi Arabia	4	10	20	6
Pacific Oceania	3	9	19	11
Bangladesh	3	8	17	10
Lebanon	2	7	17	11
Jordan	0	1	6	22
UAE	0	1	3	22

## Rice scores 56 to lead Miami over Orlando

MIAMI (AP) — Glen Rice scored a franchise-record 56 points, high in the NBA this season, to lead Miami to a 123-117 victory over Orlando on Saturday.

Rice, who scored 13 points in the final five minutes, broke his own team record of 46 points and topped Michael Jordan's 55-point performance against the New York Knicks earlier this year.

Rice hit 20 of 27 shots, including seven of eight 3-pointers, and added nine of 10 free throws.

Shaquille O'Neal had 39 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic, who have lost five consecutive road games and 14 of 18. Anfernee Hardaway had 28 points and 18 assists for Orlando. Horace Grant scored 21 points and Nick Anderson, returning from a four-game absence due to a concussion, had 20.

Khalid Reeves had 20 points and 14 assists for Miami, which shot 54 per cent. The Magic lost despite hitting 55 per cent.

Sonics 115, warriors 99: Gary Payton, playing with a broken finger, scored 24 points and Kendall Gill, back after treatment for clinical depression, capped a fourth-quarter run that led Seattle over Golden State.

Detlef Schrempf added 23 points as the Sonics won their 11th in 13 games and stayed in the thick of a four-way race with San Antonio, Phoenix and Utah for the top playoff seed in the Western Conference.

Payton, who broke his left ring finger on Thursday night against Dallas, played in his 287th straight game. Gill hadn't played since returning on Tuesday, a week after taking a medical leave for treatment of clinical depression. He scored 10 points, including two baskets that finished off a 15-2 burst in the final period. Donyell Marshall and Clifford Rozier each scored 14 to lead Golden State.

76ers 97, Nets 87: In East Rutherford, New Jersey, backup guard Jeff Grayer hit eight of his first nine shots and scored 21 points as the Philadelphia 76ers eliminated the New Jersey Nets from playoff contention.

The loss was the 13th in the last 15 games for New Jersey, which missed the playoffs for the first time in four seasons.

Shawn Bradley added 15 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks, and Dana Barros had 14 as the 76ers beat the Nets.



Detroit Pistons' Mark West grabs the ball as New Jersey Nets' Chris Morris reaches in to knock it away (AP photo)

for the second time in three games.

Celtics 129, Pistons 104: In Hartford, Connecticut, the Boston Celtics opened a three-game lead over Milwaukee for the Eastern Conference's eighth playoff spot, beating the Detroit Pistons behind Dominique Wilkins' 26 points.

Dee Brown added 22 points and Derek Strong had 20 for the Celtics, which won the season series with the Pistons 3-1. Detroit was led by Grant Hill with 31.

With the Bucks' 114-110 loss to Washington, Boston solidified its playoff position with four games remaining and never trailed in the second half.

Bullets 114, Bucks 110: In Landover, Maryland, Rookie Juwan Howard tied a season high with 31 points as the Washington Bullets broke a 13-game losing streak by nipping the Milwaukee Bucks.

Chris Wehler had 29 points and 10 rebounds, and Doug Overtun added 16 points as the Bullets won for the first time in four games against Milwaukee this season.

Six Bullets scored in double figures, including reserve Anthony Tucker, who had 10 points. Tucker hit three key

free throws in the final 1:29.

Rockets 98, Kings 84: In Houston, Kenny Smith scored 18 points, including 11 in the breakaway third quarter, as Houston beat Sacramento for its second straight victory with Hakeem Olajuwon back in the lineup.

After taking a 47-45 half-time lead, the Rockets used an 13-2 spurt to take a 72-61 lead with 2:12 to go in the third quarter, and Smith led the way to a 76-64 lead to start the fourth quarter.

Kings, who fell 11-2 games behind Denver in the race for the Western Conference's last playoff berth, have lost 24 of last 24 games in the summit. Their last victory was 100-97 on March 21, 1992.

Jazz 105, Clippers 83: In Salt Lake City, Tom Chambers' 15 points made him the 20th player in NBA history to surpass 20,000 career points as the Utah Jazz defeated the Los Angeles Clippers.

Karl Malone had 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Jazz, who won their third straight and fourth in five games. The victory pulled them within games of idle San Antonio in the race for the best record in the Western Conference.

Chambers, in his 14th season, reached the 20,000-point

plateau against the team that originally drafted him out the University of Utah in 1981.

Suns 119, Lakers 114: In Phoenix, Dan Majerle scored 19 points in the fourth quarter, rallying the Phoenix Suns for a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Majerle, who had 28 points, also got both of his steals and three of his four rebounds in the final period. Phoenix's fifth victory in six games left the Lakers a game ahead of Houston in race for the No. 5 seed from the Western Conference.

Cedric Cehallos had 40 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers.

Mavericks 102, Trail Blazers 90: In Portland, Oregon, Jamal Mashburn scored 29 points, including 13 in the third period, as the Dallas Mavericks kept their playoff hopes alive with a victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Dallas, which won for only the second time in the last 15 games in Portland, trails Denver by three games for the final playoff berth in the Western Conference. The Mavericks have five games remaining.

Clifford Robinson led the blazers with 25 points, and Otis Thorpe and Harvey Grant added 20 points apiece off the bench.

Barkley gets one-game ban

Charles Barkley of the Phoenix Suns, whistled for his sixth flagrant foul of the season, was suspended for Saturday night's crucial game against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Under a National Basketball Association rule instituted last season, players receive an automatic one-game suspension for any flagrant foul over five in one season.

RESULTS	
Seattle	115
Miami	123
Boston	129
Philadelphia	97
Washington	114
Houston	98
Utah	105
Phoenix	119
Dallas	102
Golden State	99
Orlando	117
Detroit	104
New Jersey	87
Milwaukee	110
Sacramento	84
Clippers	83
L.A. Lakers	114
Portland	90

### Rangers rake title without playing

GLASGOW (R) — Rangers were gift-wrapped the Scottish League soccer title on Saturday when Glasgow rivals Celtic went down 2-0 at relegation threatened Aberdeen.

Rangers secured their seventh successive championship — and 45th in all — without kicking a ball after Celtic, the only side capable of catching them, slipped up.

## Nantes' 32-match unbeaten league streak ends

PARIS (Agencies) — French league leaders Nantes lost in the French championship for the first time this season on Saturday after a record 32 matches unbeaten since the start of the season.

But Strasbourg's 2-0 home victory still leaves Nantes 11 points ahead of Lyon and virtually assured of the title.

Defender Franck Leboeuf's header from a Xavier Gravelaine corner and Russian Alexandre Mostovoi's freekick, in the 65th and 87th minutes respectively, was enough to beat the champions in waiting.

Their unbeaten sequence had included 19 wins and 13 draws. The previous record had been held by Paris Saint-Germain with 27 matches in the middle of last season.

Lyon, with six matches left, could only draw 1-1 at Bordeaux. Lyon's Franck Gava scored in the 64th minute, but the south western side equalised with three minutes left.

Paris Saint Germain, minus its top players, notched up a morale-boosting 3-0 win at 10-man Montpellier on Friday, days before its biggest ever match in Europe.

Jean-Philippe Sechet, Pascal Nouma and Brazilian Rai earned PSG the win and they are two points behind Lyon.

Coach Luis Fernandez had been vindicated by the result after criticism of fielding a weak side.

Brazilians Ricardo and Valdo, Vincent Guerin, Paul Le Guen, David Ginola and

George Weah were all rested with a view to Wednesday's European Cup semi-final at AC Milan. PSG trail 1-0 from the first leg.

Lens, who beat Bastia 3-0 on Saturday, hung onto fourth place, which would earn the last UEFA Cup spot. And fifth-placed Cannes are four points behind Lens following a 1-0 loss to Le Havre on Friday.

United revive title bid

New life was breathed into the championship race on Saturday as Manchester United crushed Leicester 4-0 to move within six points of Blackburn, who were held to a 1-1 draw at Leeds.

United might want to send a personal message of thanks to towering Leeds striker Brian Deane, who grabbed a last-gasp equaliser for the Elland Road outfit to deny Rovers all three points.

Kenny Dalglish's men had looked on course for victory after Colin Hendry headed home his third of the season, a minute before the break.

And England keeper Tim Flowers looked to have kept them ahead with an acrobatic save to deny Noel Whelan after Tony Yeboah and Gary Speed had combined on the edge of the box.

But when Gary McAllister floated in the resulting corner eight seconds into time-added-on, John Pemberton headed towards goal and Deane's close-range flick gave Flowers no chance and

left Rovers still needing 10 points to claim their first title since 1914.

But Dalglish was satisfied with the outcome even though the victory would have left his side just three wins from the title, saying: "I think a point was the least we deserved from what was a very good team performance."

"But our performance was tremendous. Everybody competed well and Tim Flowers didn't have a save to make until injury time," he added.

Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson, whose side's

could change. Amazing things sometimes happen and it's important we keep on winning."

At the other end of the table, Arsenal eased their relegation fears when they destroyed relegated Ipswich with a 4-0 victory at Highbury.

Ian Wright found his goal-touch before Thursday's European Cup Winners Cup semi-final second leg against Sampdoria with a quickfire second-half hat-trick.

Paul Merson gave Arsenal the first-half lead against visitors who had been condemned to the drop without even playing when Everton beat Newcastle on Friday night.

Wright then took over by grabbing a hat-trick in the space of nine minutes. They were his first league goals since January and took his season's tally to 25.

Ian Marshall grabbed a late goal for Ipswich.

Like Arsenal, Chelsea have also found themselves in a relegation struggle while reaching the semi-finals of the Cup Winners Cup but Glenn Hoddle's team eased their relegation fears with a crucial victory over fellow strugglers Aston Villa.

Mark Stein's first-half goal was enough to give Chelsea their first league win at Stamford Bridge for almost six months to move above their opponents in the table, while other results sent Villa plunging four places nearer relegation.

Coventry also moved

above Villa thanks to Dion Duhlin's third-minute goal against Sheffield Wednesday.

It was Duhlin's 15th goal of the season but Coventry had to wait until the dying seconds of the game for Zimbabwean star Peter Ndlovu to seal victory.

Southampton also eased their relegation fears with a 2-1 victory over QPR at the Dell — a defeat which effectively killed off Rangers' slim hopes of a UEFA Cup place.

All the goals came in the second half, with Neil Shipperley scoring his second goal in successive matches and his sixth since his move to the south coast club from Chelsea.

Though PQR levelled with England striker Les Ferdinand's 22nd goal of the campaign, Gordon Watson pounced on a mistake by keeper Tony Roberts to grab a vital winner.

Cologne deny Bremen share of top spot

A last-minute equaliser by jinx team Cologne cost title challengers Werder Bremen a point and a share of top spot in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Bremen, who had not scored a goal in Cologne since 1989 and had not won there since 1984, appeared to have broken the spell when Frank Neubarth scored his first goal of the season in the 68th minute.



Martina Navratilova

## No comeback in mind says Navratilova

NEW YORK (R) — She's expected to be a limited one in next weekend's opening-round match against Austria in Aventura, Florida, despite having been a member of three championship U.S. teams and having a 36-0 career Fed Cup record in singles and doubles.

But that limited role suits Navratilova just fine. "I am quite happy with my supporting role and hopefully will do my part," Navratilova said of her partnership with Gigi Fernandez for the one doubles match in the best-of-five-match format.

Lindsay Davenport and Mary Joe Fernandez are listed as the singles players. There are two singles matches scheduled for the first day Saturday and two more Sunday followed by the doubles.

At the time of her retirement, Navratilova said that she would continue to play doubles on a limited basis. Just last week it was announced that she and Graf will play doubles at Wimbledon this summer.

"I feel I don't have any regrets about playing too long or not playing long enough. I think this is the right time for me to stop."

"I have done my part and I am on to the rest of my life."

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<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>		<b>PLAZA</b>		<b>CONCORD</b>		<b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b>	<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b>	<b>AHLAM THEATRE</b>
Tom Hanks in <b>Forrest Gump</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15		Tom Hanks in <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		<b>CONCORD '1'</b> Comedian star: Adel Imam — <b>Bakhit &amp; Andadileh</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> Jean-Claude Van Dam <b>STREET FIGHTER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00		Musa Hijazin "Suma" in the political satire <b>HI Citizen</b> written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawafa daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Haffa Al Agha in the children's play ★ Sa'di's Return ★	COMING SOON The Comedy Show <b>CABARET</b>	Presents: The political satire: <b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Ajax Amsterdam down FC Groningen

GRONINGEN, Netherlands (AP) — Patrick Kluivert scored twice as Ajax Amsterdam, with an eye on Wednesday's Champions' League semifinal showdown with Bayern Munich, beat FC Groningen 4-2 on Sunday. Ajax now leads the Dutch premier division by seven points and is unbeaten in 29 matches. Kluivert's goals in the 12th and 37th minutes took him to 18 for the season and made him Ajax's top scorer. Frank De Boer also scored on 20 minutes, to give the Amsterdam club a 3-0 half-time lead and Marc Overmars added a fourth on 66 minutes. But, with the match already won and Ajax dominating both possession and territory, 11th-placed Groningen showed spirit to score second-half goals through Dian Gorre and Romano Slon. International Frank Rijkaard and Jari Litmanen were rested by Ajax manager Louis Van Gaal in preparation for the clash with Bayern.

## Laudrup turns down Barcelona

GLASGOW (R) — Denmark's Brian Laudrup revealed on Sunday that he has turned down an offer to join Barcelona to stay with Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers. "Barcelona made a concrete offer a couple of months ago," said Laudrup, whose brother and fellow-Denmark international Michael once starred for the Nou Camp Club. "While it is always a pleasure and an honour to get an offer from a club like that, what I told them is that I'm very happy in Scotland." "I've had calls from Germany as well, but me and my family are happy here," added the 26-year-old striker who moved to Glasgow from Fiorentina of Italy for \$3.52 million in July.

## U.S. coach says 'I did not resign'

MISSION VIEGO, California (R) — Bora Milutinovic has insisted he was ousted as United States national coach and had not resigned as reported earlier by the U.S. Soccer Federation. "Really, I didn't resign," Milutinovic, 51, told Reuters television on Saturday. And he indicated in the interview released on Sunday that he is taking legal advice regarding the circumstances of his departure. "They simply explained to me that I don't come into the federation's plans and our collaboration is over," added the man who last summer guided the Americans into the second round of the World Cup on home soil.

## Viola scores 5th Le Mans win

LEMANS (R) — Frenchman Alex Vieira, riding a Honda, made history with a record fifth win in the Le Mans 24-hour motorcycle race on Sunday. Vieira, combining with compatriot Rachel Nicotie and Scotsman Brian Morrison, covered 3384.52 kms by completing 764 laps to also set a distance record. Honda moved in front after Frenchman Jean-Louis Battistini, riding in the lead on a Kawasaki, fell early in the morning and broke his wrist. Kawasaki had won the race in the last three years and looked set for another triumph when Battistini, teaming with compatriot Jean D'Orgeix and Briton Terry Rimer, took the lead after three hours in the race on Saturday.

## AIFCO assigns Publi-Graphics for advertising campaign

An agreement was recently signed in Amman between the Arab International Food & Oil Processing (AIFCO) and Publi-Graphics Advertising Agency, whereas Publi-Graphics will carry the campaign on a regional level.

Arab Food and Oil Processing Co. Ltd. was established from a substantial Jordanian capital in order to produce and market the best quality oils in the region.

Accommodated with the latest and highest technology in the world, with special plant lines for producing margarine and shortening, managed by experienced personnel, to enhance the quality of the product. Produced to compete in local and international markets the Arab International Food and Oil Processing Co. Ltd. will launch one of its first quality products in the imminent future. Marjan corn oil which will be accompanied by a campaign to market their product in Jordan and abroad.

When asking Mr. Fouad Abel Latif, General Manager of Publi-Graphics Jordan on their advertising plan, he said:

"Being chosen by the Arab International Food and Oil Processing Co. Ltd. from several competitive agencies is our joy and pride. We have arranged on advertising campaign to cover the whole region and we are confident of our success to carry this campaign on both local and regional level."

Arab Food & Oil Processing Co. Ltd. has devoted all its resources to guarantee the quality of its products on a local and international level to provide for the consumer, the best quality and competitive pricing and we are confident that the products of this company will meet what is required and demanded by our consumer in the region."

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## THE HIDDEN CHANCE

Both vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ K  
♥ 4 2  
♦ 5 2  
♣ Q 10 7 5 3  
WEST  
♠ 8 6 2  
♥ J 10 8 7  
♦ 7 10 9 7  
♣ 9 8  
EAST  
♠ J 10 8 7  
♥ 7 10 9 7  
♦ K 10 6  
♣ A K  
SOUTH  
♠ A 4 3  
♥ A K Q 3  
♦ A Q 7 4  
♣ A K

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
3 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass  
6 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠  
Sometimes it is easy to spot an additional chance to make your contract. Noguera that are buried deep, through are difficult to unearth.  
This hand occurred to a duplicate event. South's first two bids showed a balanced hand of 25-27 points and North decided the six-card suit made slam a possibility. Despite the fact that it was a pairs contest, South's decision to correct to the higher-scoring contract was, at best, debatable.  
West led a low spade, knocking out a key entry to dummy before it could be put to use. Declarer cashed the ace and king of clubs, only to receive the bad news that there was no way to enjoy the table's long clubs.  
The only suit to offer any hope was diamonds. Declarer crossed to the jack of hearts, discarded a spade on the queen of clubs, then successfully finessed the queen of diamonds. When declarer cashed the ace of diamonds, East defended perfectly by jettisoning the king, so West was able to win the third diamond and cash the jack of clubs for a one-trick set. A combination of bad luck and fine defense was declarer's undoing.  
Despite East's heroic effort, the contract should have been fulfilled. After unblocking the high clubs, declarer should have led a low diamond from hand. After winning the spade return, declarer can get to the board with the jack of hearts, cash the queen of clubs for a spade discard and then take the diamond finesse. When that succeeds and both defenders follow to the ace, the 13th diamond becomes declarer's 15th trick.

## Courier upsets Agassi for Japan Open title

TOKYO (AP) — Jim Courier spoiled Andre Agassi's debut as the world No. 1, outslugging him 6-3, 6-4 Sunday in the final of the Japan Open.

Playing in chilly winds before nearly 10,000 spectators, many of them cheering for Agassi, Courier set up match point with a backhand lob just over his opponent and then claimed victory when Agassi sent a forehand long.

Agassi had saved one previous match point on his own serve at 3-5 in the second set, blasting an inside out cross-court forehand past Courier.

Agassi, who has been troubled by a back strain since Davis Cup preparations last month, was in no danger of losing his ranking.

Fellow American Pete Sampras, who headed the rankings for 82 weeks until last Monday, lost two days later in the second round of a tournament in Barcelona, Spain.

"I feel like I didn't play great today by any means," Agassi said. "Some had to do with the back, some had to do with conditions and the wind, and a lot had to do with Jim and the way that he was playing."

He added: "You can't be casual or lackadaisical or compromise your movement with Jim. He's one of the best players in the world. I felt like the odds were a little bit against me going out there just based on the fatigue factor, my back, and the conditions."

Agassi said it was nice to see Courier playing this well again, but "I'm not too excited that it's at my expense."

Courier, a former No. 1 who had gone more than 10 months without beating a top ten player, reached the final here by beating fellow American Michael Chang, ranked sixth, in the semifinals.

He collected \$156,000 for the victory.

"I've had a good week. It makes me more hungry to play well," said Courier, who now has three titles this year despite his drought against top ten players. He came to Tokyo ranked 15th in the world.

"I adapted and reacted. That's all you can do" against Agassi, he added.

"At the end I was a little nervous, but I closed it out so I feel a lot better."

Agassi, who came into the final with a 30-2 match record and three singles titles this

year, will go home with \$82,100. Because of his back strain, he already had said Saturday that he was skipping the coming week's tournament in Hong Kong for a few weeks of rest and treatment.

Courier now has won seven of his 11 meetings with Agassi, but the two had not played since Courier won in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open in 1992.

He broke Agassi in the second game, but Agassi broke back twice for a 3-2 lead. Then Courier broke twice, gaining the key break on a passing shot down the line, and served out the first set.

In the second set, Courier's

service break in the first game held up, and he almost broke again for the match at 3-5.

At 5-4, he came back from 15-30 with a deep forehand and angled volley combination, hit a winning lob and watched an Agassi forehand fly long.

In the women's final, Amy Frazier saved two set points in the first set and one in the second as she felled Kimiko Date's attempt for a fourth straight Japan Open championship.

Frazier, who lost in last year's Japan Open final to Date, took this year's title with a 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 triumph in one hour, 40 minutes.

The second-seeded American pounded deep backhands and Date, seeded first, scored with sharp angles.

Serving at 5-6 in the first set, Frazier survived two set points at 15-40 on two errors by Date, the World No. 8.

In the tiebreak, Frazier, ranked 18th, jumped to a 6-3 lead. Date saved two set points before netting a backhand.

Date led 5-4 in the second set and had one set point that Frazier saved with a forehand down the line.

Frazier then fought off two break points at 15-40 on a Date error and a backhand winner, held serve and broke Date, taking the match with a powerful backhand serve return followed by a sharply angled short backhand.

Frazier, who improved her match record for the year to 13-6, received \$25,000. Date, who is 18-3 with one tourna-

ment title and one runner-up finish this year, received \$12,000.

Frazier said she tried to be more patient than in her match with Date last year, when the sometimes tried to force a point too early, and that Date made a few more errors than usual.

"I just tried to play those (set) points like any other points. If you lose, go on to the third set and see what happens," she added. "I just tried not to let her get a lot of games in a row. Once she gets momentum, she hits a lot of winners."

Date said, "her balls are very fast and deep. It's very difficult to hit back down the

## TENNIS ROUNDUP

line. I think she played better than I did."

In the men's doubles final, top seeds Mark Knowles of the Bahamas and Jonathan Stark of the United States beat the fourth seeds, John Fitzgerald of Australia and Anders Jarryd of Sweden, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5).

Graf wins in Houston semifinals

In Houston, No. 1 ranked Steffi Graf overcame wind gusts and fellow German Sabine Hack 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals of the Houston women's tennis championships on Saturday night.

"It was difficult to play against the wind," said Graf, who is undefeated in 17 matches this year. She broke the fifth-seeded Hack's service six times in advancing to Sunday's final against Asa Carlsson of Sweden, who beat Meike Babel of Germany 6-4, 6-3 on Saturday.

Hack "plays a little higher and she had a lot of topspin on her shots, which kept me off the court a little more," Graf said. "It's very difficult to play after somebody really doesn't make a lot of mistakes."

Graf won it on the third match point when Hack double-faulted, ending a 75-minute match.

"The first four games were really close and it was 3-1 for her," Hack said. "It could have been the other way



Jim Courier

around. "I think I got a little tired because I was running way too far behind the baseline. ...I couldn't play deep enough to keep her back," she said.

In the other semi, Carlsson said she thought she would have a better chance against Graf on the Westside tennis club's clay court rather than hardcourt.

"She plays way too fast on hard court. On clay, I have a little bit more time," Carlsson said.

She said she has played her best tennis in Houston. She made it to the semifinals last year and hasn't played well since.

Babel won the first two games of the second set, but Carlsson took the next five, overcoming six break points in the seventh game.

Babel broke Carlsson's serve in the next game, but Carlsson answered in the final game, securing the match with a forehand winner.

Babel said she felt a lack of

energy when she awakened Saturday morning and ran out of steam during the match.

"You have to try and it just didn't work," she said. "Next time I'll try to be in better shape."

Carlsson pulled away from a 3-3 tie in the first set and gained two games before Babel won the ninth game at love to close to 5-4. Carlsson finished the set with an unreturned winner.

Larsson, Muster reach Barcelona finals

In Barcelona, Austria's Thomas Muster, probably the world's best claycourt player, will go after his 19th consecutive victory in a championship match on clay when he faces Sweden's Magnus Larsson in the Conde de Godo final.

The 25-year-old Larsson, seeded seventh in the tournament and No. 12 in the world, Saturday defeated his one-time nemesis Goran Iv-

nisevic 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 to advance.

Muster, seeded No. 9 in the tournament and 17th in the world, won easily in Saturday's semifinal over third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 6-3, 6-3.

Muster is now 15-0 in claycourt matches this season with two wins already on the surface — last weekend in Estoril, Portugal, and earlier in Mexico City.

A win in the final would give the 27-year-old Austrian a record 20th title on clay since the ATP Tour inception in 1990. Twenty-four of his 25 professional titles are on clay.

"I feel alright. The last two weeks I have just been eating, sleeping and playing," Muster said. "I've been sleeping a lot and that is very important for me. Everything in my game is in the right place now."

"If I play well on clay, I know I can beat anybody," he added.

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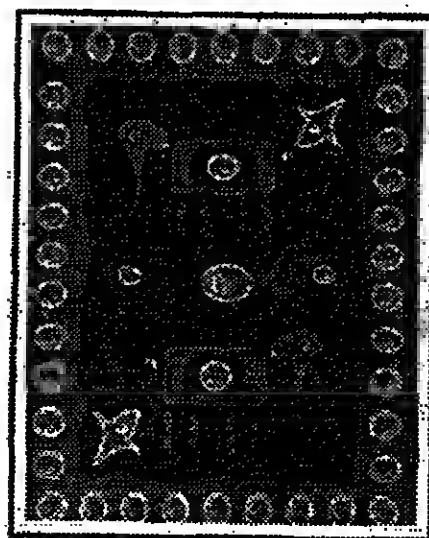
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## Libyans threaten revenge for raid

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Protesters outside the U.N. office in the Libyan capital Tripoli are threatening to take revenge for a 1986 U.S. raid on Libya.

"We are staging the sit-in to support our demand that the (U.N.) Security Council gives us our rights and punishes as war criminals all those who took... the decision to launch the raid and those who took part in it," Mounir Charmit, a spokesman for the families of the raid's victims, told foreign journalists on Saturday night.

"If our demands are not satisfied, we will take revenge by all means," he added.

"We want revenge, revenge, revenge," shouted a tearful Moshah Zilini, a protester who says two of his children were killed in the raid.

The Libyan protesters, who number about 100 and include women, began their demonstration on Saturday in a tent pitched some 20 metres from the U.N. office in Tripoli.

On April 15, 1986, U.S. warplanes flying from British bases and U.S. aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean bombed targets in Tripoli and Benghazi. Libya said more than 40 people were killed, many all civilians.

Washington said the raid was in response to an explosion at a Berlin discotheque in which two Americans were killed. The U.S. blamed Libya but Tripoli denied the charge.

Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi on Saturday marked the anniversary with a call to the U.N. to probe all violent incidents linked to Tripoli in the past decade, including the 1988 bombing, blamed by Washington on Libya, of an airliner over the town of Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

The protesters have handed the U.N. office chief letters addressed to the United Nations over their demands.

"We have been making these demands since 1986. But our patience has limits. If the U.N. does not satisfy our demands, that will legitimise our revenge actions as families of the victims," said Youssef Al Ayebe, the movement's coordinator.

## Iraq Kurds are reluctant partners in Turkish push

SALAHUDIN (R) — Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani, angered by Turkey's anti-rebel push in northern Iraq, is digging in his heels in talks with Ankara over future security arrangements in the region, his aides said on Sunday.

Turkey sent 35,000 troops into Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq on March 20 to attack bases of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) which is fighting a separatist insurgency inside Turkey.

Turkey says after it withdraws — possibly within weeks — it wants the cooperation of Mr. Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of Jalal Talabani in stopping PKK cross-border raids.

In 1992, in a similar but smaller incursion into northern Iraq, Turkey secured the help of the Iraqi Kurds in attacking the Turkish Kurdish PKK.

Their three-party agreement broke down and this time Mr. Barzani appears unwilling to be drawn into Turkey's war. He has called for Turkey to pull out of northern Iraq.

"I think he will ask for more concrete things from Turkey than in 1992 in return for his help," Sami Abdul Rahman, a senior KDP politician and member, told Reuters.

"Like help with rebuilding border villages and giving people incentives to do the job. It must provide more logistical help than before — that is why the agreement broke down... we have begged Turkey and the PKK not to bring their fight here."

Iraqi Kurds complain of damage to their property and civilian injuries caused by the incursion. Turkey denies its troops have attacked civilians and accuses the PKK "terrorists" of killing villagers.

Mr. Barzani, bitter from losing his capital Erbil and some 200 fighters to the PUK last month, is unlikely to cooperate well with his old rival despite reaching a ceasefire this month.

"Barzani wants all military out of Erbil first and that is not acceptable to the PUK," he added.

Later on Saturday night, the mood in the tent changed when a folk music band joined the protesters, who danced jubilantly with a woman wearing traditional costume.

The protesters did not say what sort of revenge they would seek for the raid, but Colonel Qadhafi said on Saturday:

"More than one million Libyans are ready to fight all along the Libyan coasts, and to change the desert, waters, and sands into a hell... our fighting is continuing and shame and defeat to the imperialists and the traitors."

Col. Qadhafi, two weeks after saying Libya would leave the United Nations, also reaffirmed his support for its authority.

The Libyan leader was speaking from his Tripoli home on the ninth anniversary of the 20-minute raid that killed his 15-year-old daughter.

He said the United Nations should show its independence by investigating the U.S. raid while it investigates the Lockerbie bombing.

"We welcomed the submission of any international issue to the Security Council, and any dispute between Libya and America be referred to the Security Council," he said.

"We continue to adhere to the U.N. Charter" and recognise that the U.N. settles the disputes between the nations," Col. Qadhafi said.

He said in an interview with the New York Times published April 5 that the United Nations had outlived its usefulness and that Libya would be leaving it.

Libya has been under a ban on air travel and economic and diplomatic relations since 1992 because it refuses to hand over two men wanted in the Lockerbie bombing.

Col. Qadhafi also indicated Libya might drop its demand to have former President Ronald Reagan, who ordered the attack, put on trial in a Libyan court because he is suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

"This does not play down the seriousness of these crimes and foolish policies committed in the Reagan era," Col. Qadhafi said.

## 5 killed in blasts in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two people were killed and five injured in three blasts by homemade bombs in the western Algerian town of Mostaganem, the daily La Tribune reported Sunday.

The bombs which went off Thursday had been planted in a high school and college near a police station in central Mostaganem, the paper said.

The identity of the victims or the assailants was not known. One of the injured was said to be in serious conditions.

La Tribune said the blasts, the second in six months in the region, were intended as a diversion while another attack took place against a post office nearby.

Last November, four boyscouts were killed and as many were injured in Mostaganem while taking part in a ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of the war of independence from France.

The attack was attributed to Islamic fundamentalists waging a campaign to unseat the military-backed government. The violence began after the military intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Since then some 30,000 people have been killed.

Two other newspapers reported Sunday that the leader of an Islamic group was killed Friday along with another fundamentalist during a police sweep in the forest region of Tamgout, located in the Kabylie region.

The leader was identified as Hocine Haki Ahmad, 35, and his accomplice as Amrane B., 25. The daily Liberté said Ahmad was a former reporter who worked at the Arabic language government dailies Al Shaab Al Massa, and had been one of the Islamist candidates in the legislative elections that were cancelled.

In other developments, the daily Al Watan reported that Abdul Kader Haddj Benamane, a journalist with the Algerian press agency, was being held by authorities in the far south region of Tamanrasset, for writing an article, which had not been published, about the two leaders of the FIS, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj.

Both leaders are under house arrest in an unknown location.

Mr. Benamane's attorney said his client was arrested two days ago and charged with threatening national security, after being detained for 11 days.

Representatives of the 17 NPT signatories are to attend the New York session. Voting on extending the treaty would take place before the forum ends on May 12.

The NPT, which entered into force in 1970 for 25 years, pledges all but the five atomic powers to forego nuclear weapons, accept safeguards on all nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency and have access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

On the eve of the U.N. meeting, Egypt on Sunday called again for Israel to sign the international convention. But in making his appeal, Foreign Minister Amr Wadoud did not repeat Egypt's earlier threat to support renewal of the treaty if Israel does not join.

There is no question of signing — that Israel would sign or Egypt would sign," Mr. Wadoud told reporters in Cairo. "But we call on Israel to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, that's for sure."

He added: "This is our position and it will continue to be the same."

The United States has been lobbying for indefinite extension of the pact. But some developing nations have argued for periodic review.

Egypt has long been a proponent of ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, and it argues that the Israel-Arab peace process has created the climate for it.

"Our known position (is) that the Middle East is entering a new era of peace," Mr. Wadoud said Sunday. "Peace should be based on stability, on cooperation, on mutual confidence, on normal relations."

Continued on page 7

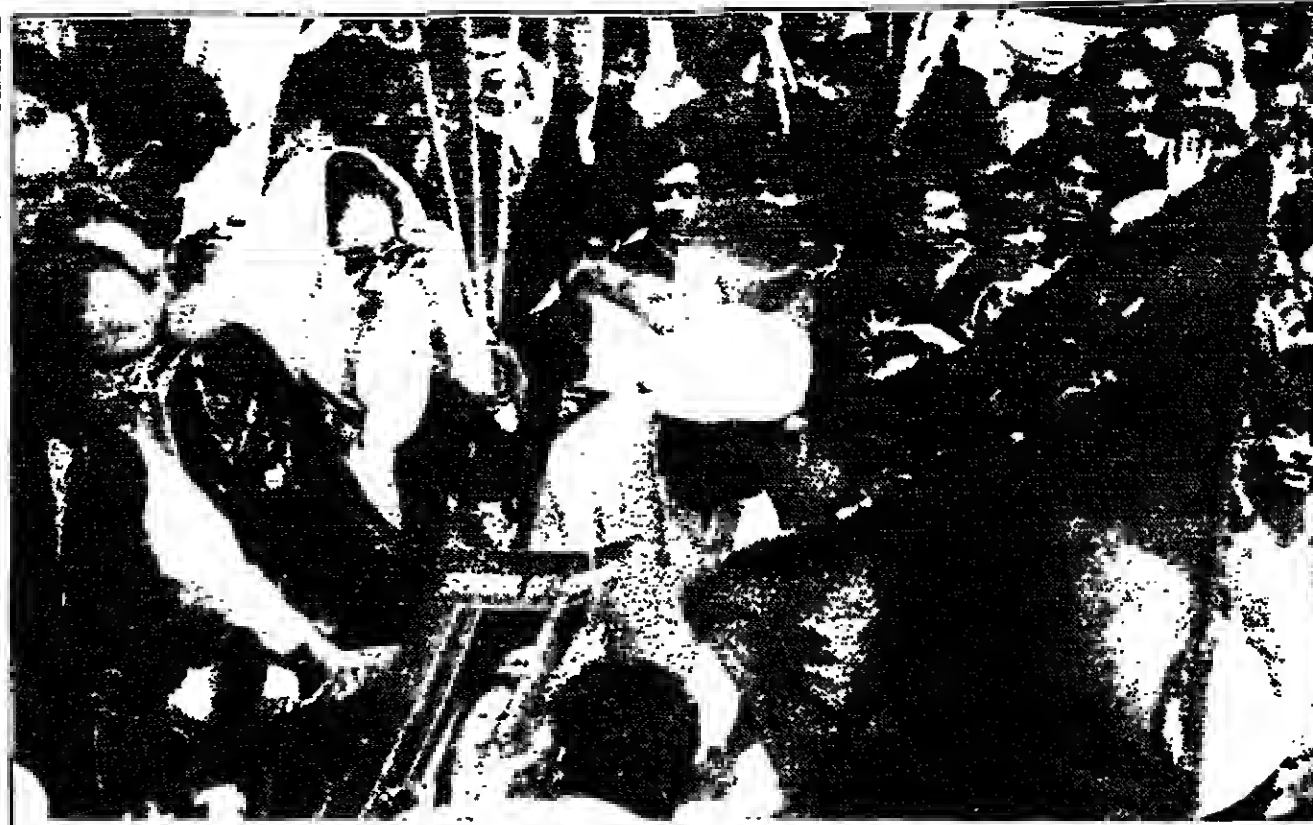
Manila believes Saudi jailed in U.S. key figure in extremist group

MANILA (AP) — An Arab businessman jailed in California is believed to be a pivotal figure in a network of extremists accused of conspiracies ranging from the World Trade Centre bombing to plots to blow up U.S. airlines over the Pacific.

Mohammad Jamal Khalifa was arrested last December in Santa Rita, California, for allegedly falsifying his visa application. Immigration and Naturalisation Service spokesman Greg Gagne said Mr. Khalifa is being held without bond in San Francisco pending deportation.

Mr. Khalifa, a Saudi national, was convicted in absentia in Jordan last January of plotting terrorism and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

U.S. authorities have said little about Mr. Khalifa and he has not been charged with any offences in the Philippines.



TRIUMPHANT RETURN: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto adjusts her scarf as her party supporters thronged the airport to greet her upon her return home from the United States on Sunday. Ms. Bhutto said her

week-long visit had defined parameters for a more mature Pakistan-U.S. relationship in the future (see page 5) (AFP photo)

## Kabariti heads for U.N., says NPT should cover Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti headed for New York on Sunday to take part in a review of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Jordan supports Egypt's stand that Israel should end the convention, which will lead to international inspections of the Jewish state's nuclear installations.

Israel, which reportedly possesses 200 nuclear warheads, says it would not sign the treaty before Arab states like Syria, Libya and Iraq as well as Iran make peace with the Jewish state.

In departure comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan "will seek to ensure that Israel will not be excluded from joining the treaty and will be committed to its conditions."

Israel's nuclear programmes have to be internationally supervised to ensure that they will not cause any security or environmental risks in the region," Mr. Kabariti added.

Jordan will also coordinate with Arab countries and the Non-Aligned Movement to guarantee that all countries are committed to the treaty, including Israel, he said.

The U.N. review of the NPT begins in New York on Monday.

Representatives of the 17 NPT signatories are to attend the New York session. Voting on extending the treaty would take place before the forum ends on May 12.

The NPT, which entered

into force in 1970 for 25 years, pledges all but the five atomic powers to forego nuclear weapons, accept safeguards on all nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency and have access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

On the eve of the U.N. meeting, Egypt on Sunday called again for Israel to sign the international convention.

But in making his appeal, Foreign Minister Amr Wadoud did not repeat Egypt's earlier threat to support renewal of the treaty if Israel does not join.

There is no question of signing — that Israel would sign or Egypt would sign," Mr. Wadoud told reporters in Cairo. "But we call on Israel to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, that's for sure."

He added: "This is our position and it will continue to be the same."

The United States has been lobbying for indefinite extension of the pact. But some developing nations have argued for periodic review.

Egypt has long been a proponent of ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, and it argues that the Israel-Arab peace process has created the climate for it.

"Our known position (is) that the Middle East is entering a new era of peace," Mr. Wadoud said Sunday. "Peace should be based on stability, on cooperation, on mutual confidence, on normal relations."

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U.S. authorities have said little about Mr. Khalifa and he has not been charged with any offences in the Philippines.

But Philippine Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan said Mr. Khalifa is believed to be a key figure in efforts to export Middle Eastern-style extremism to this country's six-million strong Islamic community.

Mr. Alunan described Mr. Khalifa as an associate of six alleged Muslim extremists, all Arabs, who were arrested April 1 in suburban Kalookan. They in turn were associates of Ramzi Yousef and Abdul Hakim Murad, charged Thursday in New York with plotting to blow up United Airlines jets between Los Angeles and Hong Kong.

Police say the two shared an apartment in Manila, where they also plotted to kill Pope John Paul II. Police raided their apartment a

week before the Pope arrived and arrested Murad. Yousef fled to Pakistan where he was arrested in February and deported to the United States.

Mr. Khalifa has not been charged with any offences in the Philippines, but authorities here believe he was a key figure in efforts to recruit new members of the Abu Sayyaf group, a Filipino movement blamed for numerous attacks on Christians, including the April 4 raid on the southern town of Ipil in which 53 people died.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UAE forms new parliament

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday appointed a new parliament two months after its two-year term had expired, the official agency WAM reported. It was not immediately clear if Abu Dhabi's Al Haj Ben Abdullah Al Muhairbi would remain as speaker of the 40-strong Federal National Council (FNC) which has several new members, according to a decree issued by President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. The FNC, whose term had expired in February, is made up mainly of businessmen and leading figures, drawn proportionately from the seven emirates in the 24-year-old federation. Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the biggest and wealthiest emirates, are represented by eight members each while Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah have six each and the remaining members are drawn equally from the Umm Al Quwain, Ajman and Fujairah. The UAE is run by the rulers of the seven emirates, the Supreme Federal Council, which held its annual meeting on Sunday to discuss domestic affairs and other issues, WAM said.

### Controversial film sweeps eight awards

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian cinema industry has awarded eight prizes to a controversial film that narrowly escaped being banned for allegedly depicting Joseph, whom Muslims revere as a prophet. In a star-studded ceremony on Saturday, a panel of judges awarded "Al Mohager" (The Emigrant) Egypt's most prestigious awards for best film, cinematography, soundtrack, editing, set design and costumes as well as a prize for the male lead, Khaled Al Nabawi, and the director, Yousef Shahin. The film has been widely understood to be an allegory involving Joseph, revered by Muslims, Christians and Jews as a prophet. Mr. Shahin, a veteran of the Egyptian cinema world, successfully fought off an attempt by an Islamist lawyer to have the film banned on the grounds that it broke the Islamic ban on portraying prophets. A judge ruled in favour of the lawyer last year but a Cairo appeals court in March dismissed the case, saying the lawyer had no direct interest in the case.

### Vienna attack not the work of PKK

VIENNA (AFP) — A firebomb attack on a Turkish Airlines office "was not the work of radical Kurdish groups, according to initial inquiries," police here said Sunday. At first police thought it could have been carried out by supporters of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), after a spate of similar incidents in Germany where the group is banned. However, they found a red flag bearing a star identified as that of a Turkish far-left group, the DHKC, which police believe is close to the radical Turkish organisation Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) trying to establish communism in Turkey. Similar flags were found at the scene of three attacks on Turkish groups in Germany at the end of March. The Turkish Airlines incident occurred overnight Friday when a firebomb was thrown through a window, starting a fire which was quickly put out by firefighters. There were no injuries but security was stepped up around Turkish interests in Vienna.

### Vanunu to eat leaven bread during Passover

ASHKELON (AFP) — Jailed spy and nuclear expert Mordechai Vanunu, who has converted to Christianity, has been allowed to eat leaven bread during the Jewish Passover celebrations, a prison spokesman said Sunday. Mr. Vanunu had requested not to be given the unleavened bread that Jews have been eating since Friday for the eight-day Passover marking their Biblical escape from Egypt. Bakers in Israel close during the period, so "we have frozen round loaves for him," the spokesman told reporters. Mr. Vanunu is serving an 18-year sentence for having passed information and photos to London's Sunday Times in October 1986 of Israel's top-secret Dimona nuclear reactor, in the southern desert, where he had been working.

### Japanese give Arafat hope of fresh aid

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A Japanese delegation touring the Middle East urged Yasser Arafat on Sunday to improve the Gaza Strip's economy and held out hope of fresh aid for the self-rule territory. "I hope the Palestinians will work hard on the improvement of their economy and also to promote peace in the Middle East," said Katsumi Suzuki, a senior Japanese government aid official. "We would like to continue giving as much assistance as possible." Mr. Arafat said he hoped the Palestinians could soon acquire Japanese technology. "Japan is one of the most important donors helping our people. We are looking to get Japanese technology in our industrial zones and we are sure our Japanese friends will help us," he said. The 22-member delegation was sent to the Middle East to assess whether Japan should send United Nations peacekeeping troops to the Golan Heights. The group, which is due to return to Japan on Wednesday, has already travelled to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel. On Friday Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said his country would support any Japanese contribution to the peace process.

### Student wounds teacher, kills himself

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian university student killed himself and seriously wounded his teacher after setting off a grenade in a dispute over his class marks, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) said Sunday. Majid Yusef-Poor, a student at the Islamic University of Mashhad in northeast Iran, had threatened the teacher before the grenade attack on Saturday night because he feared he would not go into a higher class without better marks, IRNA said.

## COLUMN

### Church offers religion to go with drive-thru service

SPRINGFIELD, Oregon (AFP) — Car-crazed Americans can now add a church's Easter tale to the latest drive-thru services. The New Life Centre Church here offered a dramatization of the Passion of Christ in five scenes over the weekend. Viewers were able to watch the 15-minute production without even leaving their cars. People could drive to the church and view different scenes acted out around the grounds. The production opened with townspeople and Roman soldiers witnessing the miracles of Christ. Motoring around the side of the church, they encountered a scene depicting the Last Supper. At the far end of the parking lot the Crucifixion takes place, and the final part shows the empty tomb of Christ. "The early church used drama," Pastor Todd Wagoner said. "We've just taken it one step further."

### Passion play profits shock Abbey audience

LONDON (R) — An Easter play in which Jesus Christ was referred to as "pigshit" and "a sorry looking bastard" left some of its Westminster Abbey audience shocked and appalled. The traditional Good Friday play in London's leading Protestant church about the last hours and crucifixion of Jesus Christ was littered with swear words and profanities. In one scene an actor remarked to another as they carried the cross into the abbey, "if you drop it, I'll cut your balls off." During the crucifixion, Christ was taunted with shouts of "Jew-boy". Anglican Bishop of London David Hooper described the three-hour play written by Justin Butcher as "very earthy". The Roman Catholic Cardinal Basil Hume left after 30 minutes, saying he would have preferred something more meditative. One member of the 6,000-strong audience said Saturday "it was very frightening. It has given me a pain in my stomach." Some people walked out in anger and others were reported to have left in tears. Butcher, a practising Anglican, told reporters: "You have to convey a degree of violence and humiliation to make this story real."

### Aquino welcomes return of pregnant daughter

MANILA (AFP) — Former Philippine President Corason Aquino said Sunday that she would welcome the return to the family of her wayward youngest daughter and her soon-to-be-born baby, the Philippine Star reported. Mrs. Aquino made the comments in her first television interview to be aired Monday on the subject of her daughter, Kris, 24, whose pregnancy by a married man has stirred up controversy in predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines. "You and your baby, you will always be welcome," the paper quoted Mrs. Aquino, who led the popular revolt that toppled the 20-year old dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, as saying. "But definitely I will not welcome you know who," she said, referring to Philip Salvador, more than 20 years Kris' senior, who is separated from his wife, with whom he had three children. In the interview, the deeply religious Aquino said the pregnancy of Kris, a movie actress who is currently living with Salvador, had caused her "such pain."

### Naked royals removed from exhibition

CANBERRA (AFP) — Exhibition organisers Sunday removed a life-sized sculpture of Britain's Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh sitting naked on a park bench, following repeated attacks by vandals. The 10-cent work, facing the capital's Lake Burley Griffin and titled Down By The Lake With Liz And Phil, had outraged monarchists who described it as an insult to the country's head of state.